EERIE #128

EERIE®

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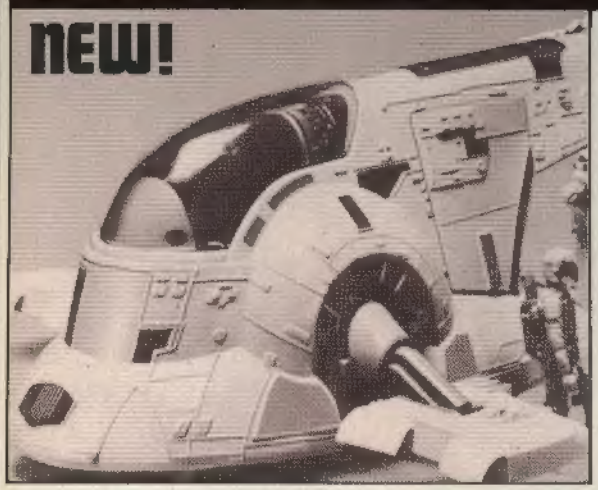
THE DEVIL WORSHIPERS BUTCHERED HIS WIFE! NOW DR. COVEN, WITCH-HUNTER, WOULD MAKE THEM PAY!

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

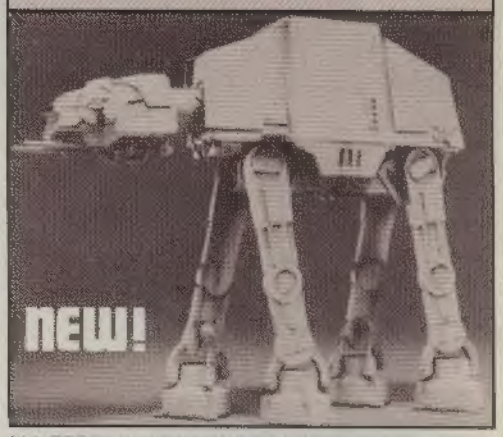
INCREDIBLE MODELS & SETS FROM THE MOST EXCITING MOVIE EVER!

SLAVE 1: BOBA FETT'S SPACESHIP



SLAVE I: An exciting replica of the evil Boba Fett's ship! Highly detailed ship has movable ramp into the cargo hold, adjustable seat for landing and flight positions, adjustable wings that lock for cruise control! The clicking, moving laser cannons will protect Slave I from any pursuit ships. The craft will hold at least three action figures beside Boba when the side panel is removed! A frozen Han Solo figurine is included! This is a functional toy that requires no batteries! Action figure not included. #26299—$24.95

AT-AT WALKER



ALL-TERRAIN ARMORED-TRANSPORT: Highly detailed 8" tall replica of the deadly walkers! The legs and head control room are moveable! #24256—$7.25

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

TURRET & PROBOT PLAY SET

TURRET AND PROBOT PLAYSET: Watch out Rebels! Probot is looking for you! You can relive the dramatic battle on the ice planet Hoth with this deluxe playset! You can eject the Probot with the action lever that you control! For added thrills, there's a realistic Rebel Laser Gun-Turret. Action figures fit inside through the opening side door and into the hatch on top. Turret laser cannon clicks as it turns! Intricately detailed and colorful plastic Probot and laser Turret are just what you need to kindle your imagination and authenticate the world of your Star Wars action figures! Durable plastic will last for years! Action figures sold separately! #26297—$15.95

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EERIE®

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DR. COVEN 5

Through the bleary haze of the drug he'd been slipped, Dr. Coven watched the shredded corpses rise from the swamp's muck and join the hag at the altar, surrounding his helpless, doomed wife!

DEMON QUEEN 16

Everywhere he looked...demons! Demon cabdrivers, mailmen, waitresses...demons that taunted him, reached for him in the darkness, and beckoned him to join them in eternal damnation!

ZUD KAMISH 25

The Deep Space Desperados wanted Zud Kamish dead! They'd tried to snuff him a dozen times, with no success! But tonight, Kamish is playing nursemaid to his milktoast son...weaponless!

BLACKSTAR 36

The Huntress was forced to take hostages to ensure her own freedom! Secretly, she knew she would never harm innocent people...but her pursuers would be happy to kill them all to take her!

AVENGER 45

He'd gone down in flaming glory in Viet Nam, but death, he found, was temporary! He rose from his grave, rotting and putrescent, to lead an army of the dead against the hated world of the living!

HAGGARTH 53

At the Amazon's spoken command, the eagle soared to the skies, arced, and then swooped to earth, its talons bared, its beak a thrusting point...aimed at the heart of the warrior Haggarth!

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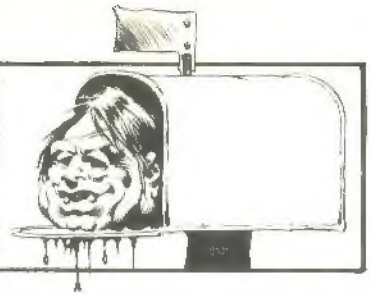
DEAR COUSIN EERIE



While reading the latest installment of **Haggarth** by **Victor de la Fuente** in **EERIE #126,** I found myself thinking about the dangers of nuclear power, the Soviet Union's takeover of Afghanistan, and the price of wheat in Kansas. What I **didn't** find myself thinking about was the story, which continues to bore me more and more as the series progresses.

Haggarth is composed of page after page of meaningless dialogue, which serves merely as a page-filler for **Warren Publishing** and as an excuse for **de la Fuente** to avoid developing new ideas for his series.

Sword and sorcery is a weak genre, and, as such, **Korsar** was pathetic! The story contained a muscle-bound warrior, a slave girl, an evil sorceress, and a fire-breathing dragon. Sound familiar? You bet! These elements are standard material for any sword and sorcery tale. **Alabaster Redzone** offered but one original element (sex-crazed cannibals) and that was of dubious value. The art lacked detail and distinction, and appeared to be a rush-job by the overrated **Esteban Maroto.**

I was sad to see "Pyramid of the Black Sun" end, but not because of the story, which was mediocre, but because "Pyramid" offered a rare opportunity to see the work of **Luis Bermejo.** It is clear that Bermejo always gives one hundred percent to each story he does, which is a rare attribute in the comic business nowadays.

While Bermejo's art was great, it was **E.R. Cruz** who stole the show. He continues to impress me issue after issue. **Zud Kamish** is rapidly becoming the successor to **The Rook** and, in my opinion, is filling his shoes well. No matter who is writing the installments (this issue it was **John Ellis Sech**) each chapter is as exciting as the one before.

Finally, it is clear that nothing can top **Richard Corben** in color. And the cover of **EERIE #126** was certainly no exception!

GLENN RICHMAN
Wyomissing, Penn.

How could a great magazine like **EERIE** print trash like **Korsar,** which appeared in issue **#126?**

A story like that belongs in **Playboy,** not in any **Warren** magazine. It all centered on sex! If my father were to catch me reading such garbage, my comic-reading days would be numbered!

GLENN McGUIGAN
Harrisburg, Penn.

After a great opening chapter, "The Pyramid of the Black Sun" had a very disappointing second installment in #126. It was **Orka's** attitude toward the reformed **Ulzan R.** that spoiled it for me. **Ulzan R.** is a man who sacrificed billions of lives for his admittedly high ideals, showing complete disregard for life. Now **Orka,** a dedicated manhunter after a war criminal who has been on the loose for seventeen years, decides to pardon **Ulzan R.** for a good deed he did on just one planet. It doesn't make sense morally or dramatically.

The highlight of this issue was the **Haggarth** episode. **Victor de la Fuente** is a fine artist, and, as a scripter, has interesting philosophical ideas. Normally, though, his story wanders. He loses the thread of the plot, thin as that thread often is. But that was no problem this issue. Here, the lines of conflict were clearly drawn and the characters had valid motivations on their own terms, rather than being mere pawns manipulated by **de la Fuente** for "higher" purposes, as has so often been the case in the past.

Zud Kamish continues to be both an interesting and disappointing series. It is interesting because it tries to mix humor with adventure; it is disappointing because the mixture has not been successful. It satisfies neither as humor nor adventure.

The dregs of this issue were to be found in **Korsar.** This was a cliched perversion of the sword and sorcery genre using all the cheap tricks in the book. One can only hope that it is not the basis for a series, but the final panel makes one fear that this hope will not be fulfilled.

T.M. MAPLE
Toronto, Ontario

"Pyramid of the Black Sun" proved once again that **Luis Bermejo** is a major superstar in the field of comics. Whenever this man's work appears in a comic, the magazine is enriched. It comes alive! He has a style that is unique to himself, yet is dynamic and clear. More **Bermejo!**

J.B.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Cousin Eerie,
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 E. 32nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10016

I guess it was inevitable, but it was still a major disappointment to see my main man, **Zud Kamish,** descend into ordinary, run-of-the-mill adventures.

When this series premiered, it was fresh and new, unpredictable, humorous, imaginative! **Zud** had a good relationship going with the Cometeers, the Deep Space Desperados were villains to be reckoned with, and **Zud** was being continually harassed by his ex-wife.

But in "Crabs" in **EERIE #126, Zud** was given an assignment, and he simply went out and accomplished it with no major complications or intrigues. Author **John Ellis Sech** seemed a bit tired of it all.

I can only hope "Crabs" was a temporary aberration, and not a sign of things to come.

LYLE CROCKER
Yonkers, N.Y.

Will we ever see **Orka** again? His search for the not-so-villainous **Ulzan R.** ended with the "Blekos" chapter of "Pyramid of the Black Sun," but that does not necessarily spell the end of the series, does it?

Author **Alabaster Redzone** and artist **Luis Bermejo** combined to make "Pyramid" a truly special series. One of the freshest aspects of it was that **Orka** was not your normal comic book hero. He was an older man, a diplomat, and therefore possessed more wisdom than brawn. I enjoyed watching him use his brains to get out of sticky situations.

Bermejo's artwork is very welcome. He is a true professional, a true artist with a vision and style all his own. Please...don't let **Orka** die!

MARIE CANNON
Chicago, Ill.

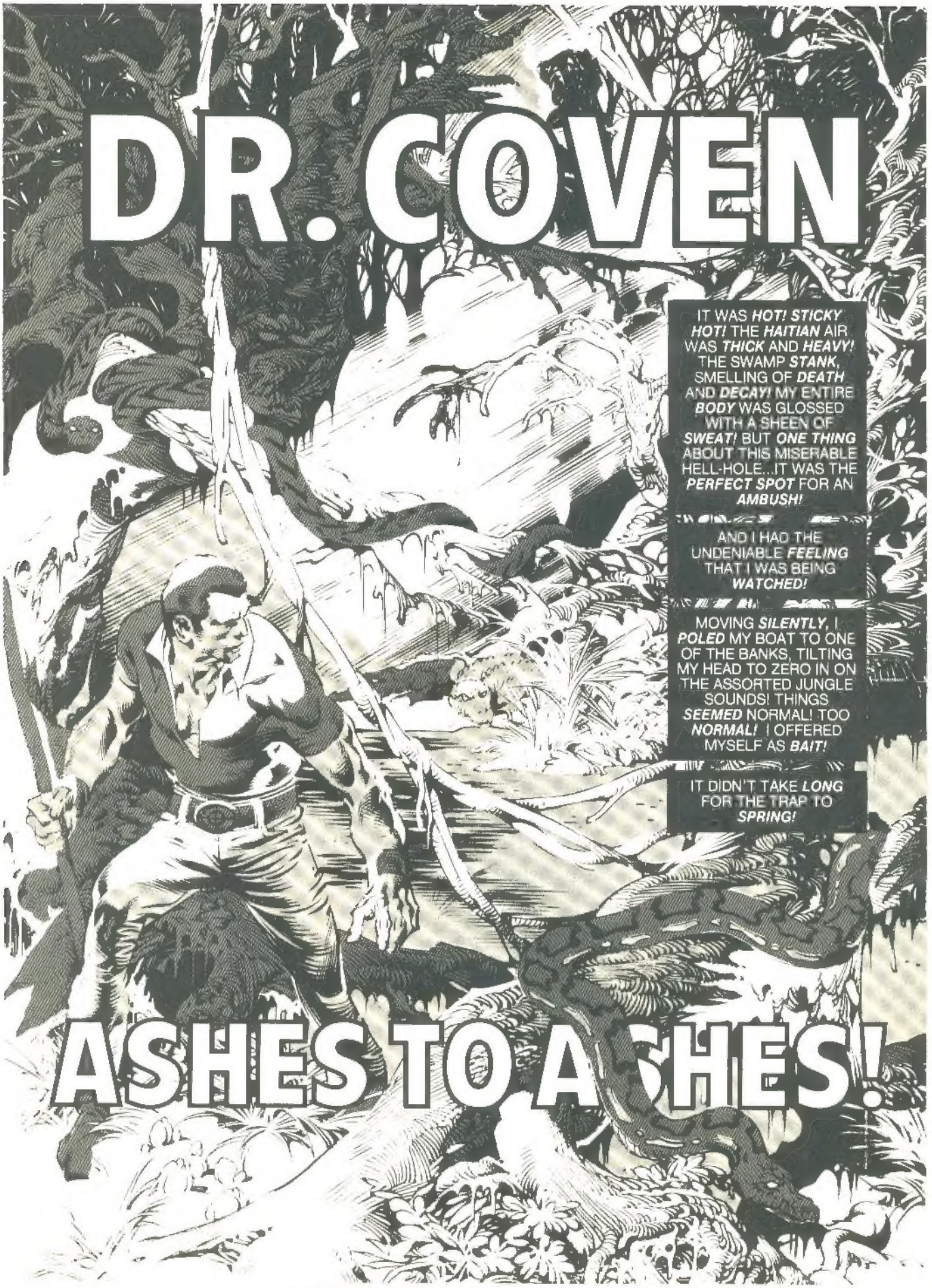
At long last **Haggarth** has spoken the words I longed to hear! When we last saw him in the installment in **EERIE #126** he was exhorting **Borin** to follow him to...**King Thall** and his palace!

In no time, **Haggarth** and this shrimp-tyrant will be facing one another, and I think I can guess who's going to come out on top! No contest! Even with all of **Thall's** guards and his leopard, **Haggarth** is going to cut a bloody swath through them and then chop that pint-sized punk to cutlets!

JASON ROSSITER
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

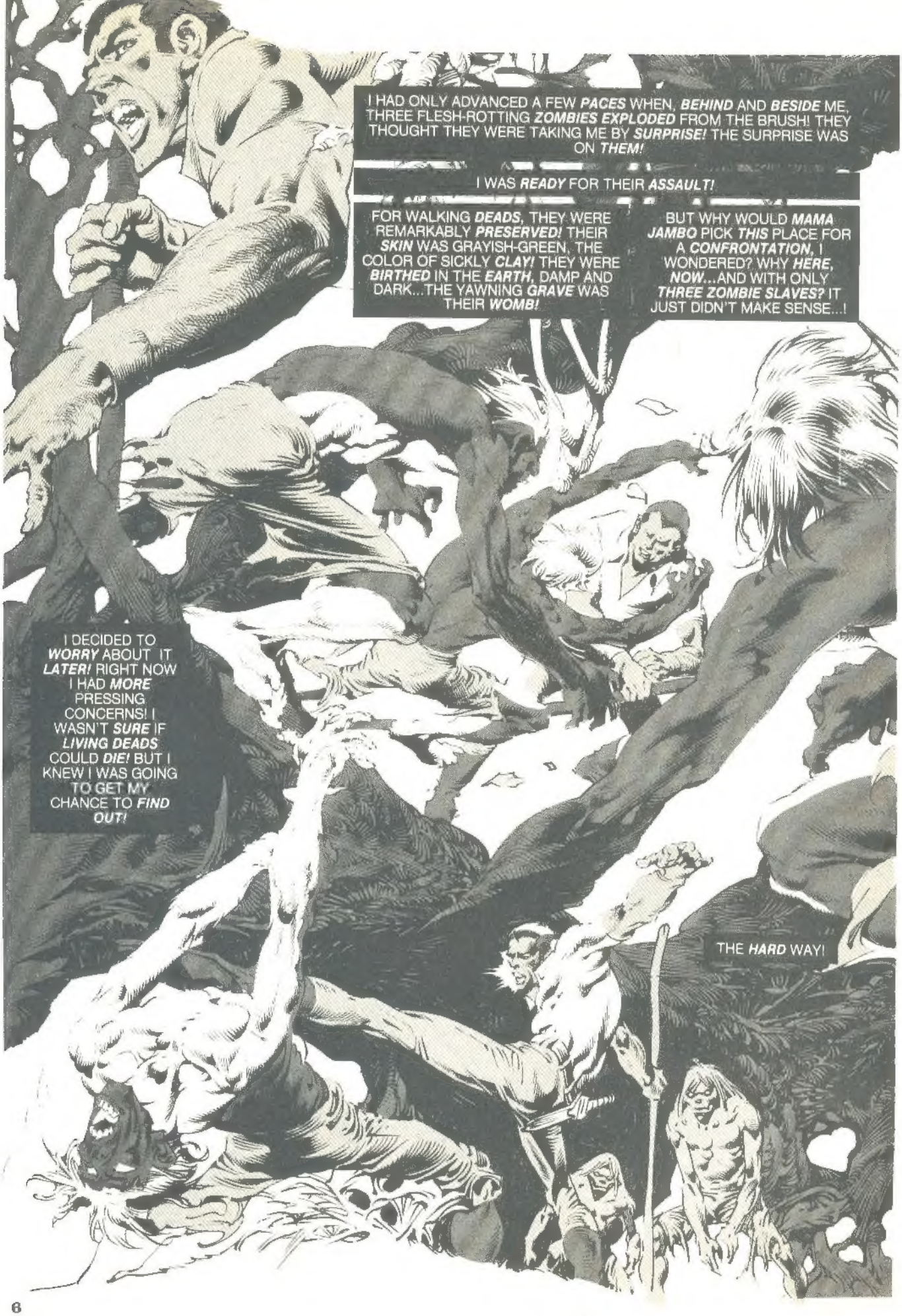
Esteban Maroto's artwork is the greatest! I was ecstatic to find it finally in the pages of **EERIE,** and the first installment of an apparent series, to boot! **Maroto** draws sword and sorcery the way it's supposed to be done, with a wealth of lavish and murky adornment, bloodthirsty beasties, voluptuous women, and over-muscled hunks for heroes! More **Korsar!**

SETH GULLIAN
Houston, Texas



Author: **RICH MARGOPOULOS**/Illustrator: **RUDY NEBRES**

THE THIRD ONE HAD BEEN HANGING BACK, AS THOUGH EXPECTING HIS BROTHERS TO MAKE SHORT *WORK* OF ME! SUDDENLY... WITHOUT *WARNING*, HE WAS ALL *OVER* ME!
HE HAD ME IN A *CHOKE HOLD!* FOR AN INSTANT I COULD SMELL *DEATH! HIS* AND *MY OWN!* AS HE TIGHTENED HIS *GRIP*, I THOUGHT FLEETINGLY OF *GLORIA!* IT WAS *ENOUGH!*
I USED A *MOVE* I'D LEARNED IN THE *RANGERS*...AND *FLIPPED* THE STRUGGLING CADAVER OVER MY SHOULDER, *SLAMMING* HIM *HARD* AGAINST THE SOFT, WET *GROUND!*
HE LAY ON HIS BACK, *WRIGGLING*...A RICTUS GRIN *FROZEN* LIKE A MASK UPON HIS FACE! WITH BERSERKER *FURY*, MY BOOTED FOOT STOMPED *DOWN*...
...*DESTROYING* THE HIDEOUS *DEATH SMILE* AND *CRUSHING* THE DECOMPOSING *HEAD BEHIND* IT!
KRAAAK!
MAMA JAMBO! I *KNOW* YOU'RE *OUT THERE!* I'M *COMING* FOR YOU, *DEVIL* WOMAN! YOU *HEAR* ME? I'M *COMING* FOR *YOU!*


I HAD ONLY ADVANCED A FEW *PACES* WHEN, *BEHIND* AND *BESIDE* ME, THREE FLESH-ROTTING *ZOMBIES EXPLODED* FROM THE BRUSH! THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE TAKING ME BY *SURPRISE!* THE SURPRISE WAS ON *THEM!*
I WAS *READY* FOR THEIR *ASSAULT!*
FOR WALKING *DEADS*, THEY WERE REMARKABLY *PRESERVED!* THEIR *SKIN* WAS GRAYISH-GREEN, THE COLOR OF SICKLY *CLAY!* THEY WERE *BIRTHED* IN THE *EARTH*, DAMP AND DARK...THE YAWNING *GRAVE* WAS THEIR *WOMB!*
BUT WHY WOULD *MAMA JAMBO* PICK *THIS* PLACE FOR A *CONFRONTATION*, I WONDERED? WHY *HERE, NOW*...AND WITH ONLY *THREE ZOMBIE SLAVES?* IT JUST DIDN'T MAKE SENSE...!
I DECIDED TO *WORRY* ABOUT IT *LATER!* RIGHT NOW I HAD *MORE* PRESSING CONCERNS! I WASN'T *SURE* IF *LIVING DEADS* COULD *DIE!* BUT I KNEW I WAS GOING TO GET MY CHANCE TO *FIND OUT!*
THE *HARD* WAY!

I HAD A THEORY ABOUT *UNDEADS!* I FIGURED THAT THEY COULD ONLY TAKE *SO MUCH ABUSE* AND *PUNISHMENT* UNTIL EVEN *THEY* HAD TO *DIE* A *SECOND* TIME!
SURE, THEY'RE *SUPERNATURAL CREATURES!* BUT IF YOU *CHOPPED OFF* ONE OF THEIR HANDS, YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT IT TO *LIVE FOREVER!* ACCORDING TO *PHYSICAL LAWS,* THE *ENERGY* THAT *ANIMATED* THEM *HAD* TO *CEASE* AT *SOME* POINT! AND *FINDING* THAT POINT *WASN'T* GOING TO BE *EASY!*
EVEN THOUGH THEIR *SKIN* WAS *SLOUGHING FROM* THEIR BRITTLE *BONES,* THEY *FOUGHT* LIKE *MADMEN,* WITH INHUMAN, *FRIGHTENING* STRENGTH!
I *SWUNG* MY *STAFF* IN A WIDE *ARC, CLIPPING* ONE, AND *SHATTERING* HIS *JAW...* IN THE *SAME* MOVEMENT, *BACK-HANDING ANOTHER* INTO THE TEPID, ALGAE-COVERED WATER!
THE THING *SPLASHED* AND *SCREAMED* AS POWERFUL JAWS *LOCKED* ON IT! IT WAS AN *ANSWER* TO MY *PRAYERS!* THEY *COULD* BE BEATEN, I REALIZED! THEY *COULD DIE* AFTER ALL!
I *RALLIED* THEN, LUNGING *FORWARD...* USING MY POLE AS A *BLUDGEON* TO *BASH* MY *FIRST* ASSAILANT'S *BRAINS* OUT FROM THE *INSIDE!*

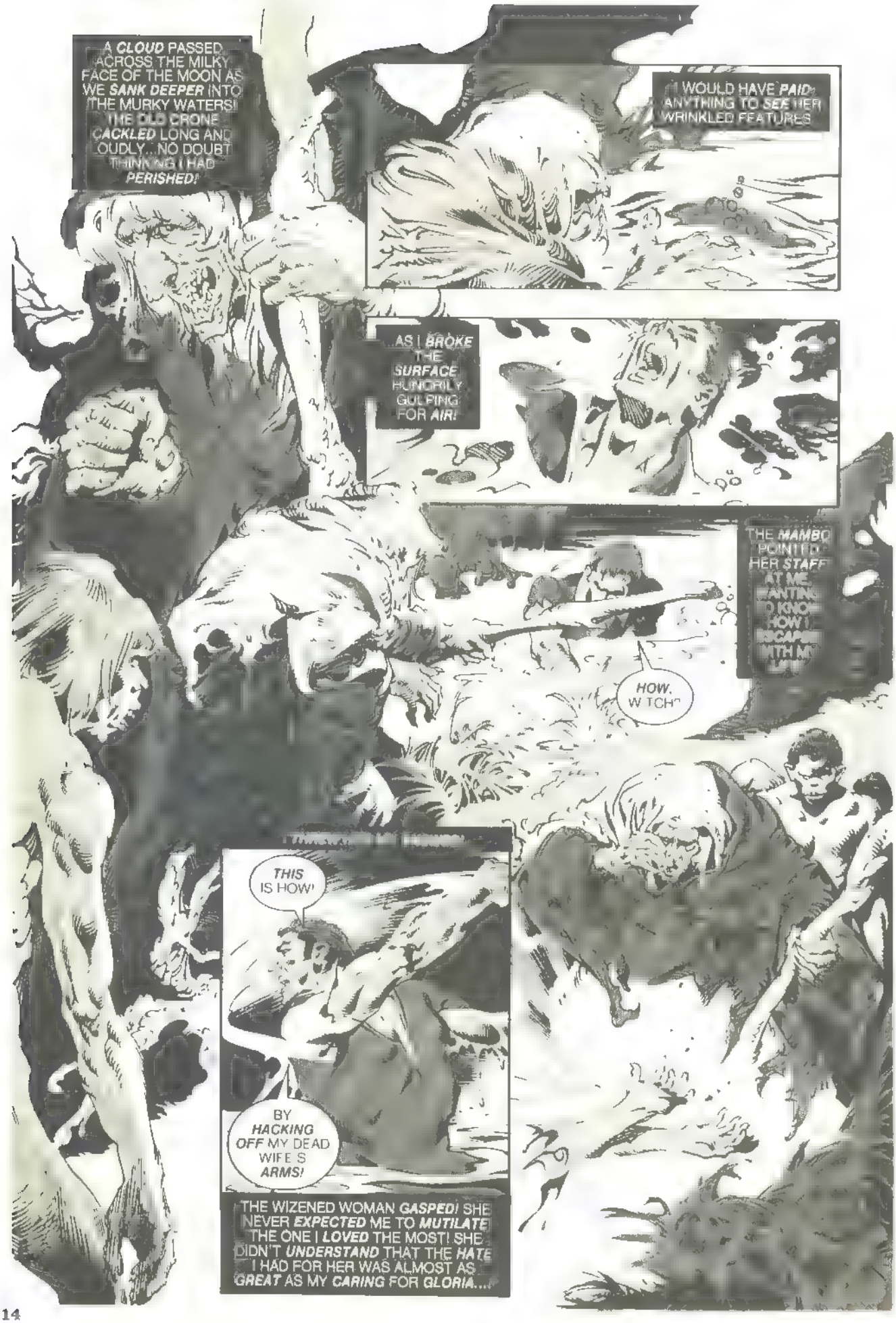
THE HATED NAME BROUGHT THE MEMORIES! GUSHING BACK! JUST A FEW SHORT DAYS BEFORE, I'D BEEN A DIFFERENT MAN! THEN, I WAS DR. ROSS COVEN, ANTHROPOLOGIST, AUTHORITY ON MYSTICISM AND PRIMITIVE RITUAL! A CIVILIZED MAN IN A SANE SOCIETY!
THAT'S WHEN THE "THAT'S AN ODDITY". TV SHOW SENT ME TO HAITI TO SCOUT LOCATIONS FOR A COMING PROGRAM! MY WIFE, GLORIA... MY BELOVED GLORIA, BEGGED ME TO LET HER COME ALONG! SO I TURNED THE TRIP INTO A WORKING VACATION! WHAT ELSE COULD I DO
NO SOONER HAD WE DEBARKED AT PORT-AU-PRINCE WHEN AN OLD MAMBO, A VOODOO PRIESTESS NAMED MAMA JAMBO, SLITHERED UP TO US DRESSED IN BLACK! SHE KNEW OUR NAMES AND OF MY INTEREST IN VOODOO...AND INVITED US TO ATTEND A PRIVATE CEREMONY!
WE WERE TAKEN BY BOAT TO OUT-BACK COUNTRY! EVENTUALLY, NIGHT COVERED US LIKE A SHROUD! A FIRE WAS LIT! GLORIA WAS TAKEN IN BY THE MUSIC...THE DANCING! YET, I FELT THERE WAS SOMETHING TERRIBLY AMISS!

MAMA JAMBO WAS THE PERFECT HOSTESS! SHE SENSED MY UNEASE AND OFFERED US WINE! SHE SAID IT WOULD HELP US APPRECIATE THE RITUAL...BUT I'D SEEN ENOUGH! I WANTED TO LEAVE!!
BUT GLORIA, THE PERFECT GUEST, EAGERLY ACCEPTED THE CUP! IT TASTED BITTER! NOW I KNOW WHY!
THE DRUMS, AND THE CHANTING WENT ON, AS DID THE FEVERED CONTORTIONS OF THE NATIVE DANCERS! SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING REELED! I TRIED TO STAND ...BUT ONLY STAGGERED JERKILY TO MY FEET, LIKE A DRUNKEN PUPPET, TANGLED IN ITS STRINGS!
GLORIA COLLAPSED IN A HUDDLED PILE NEXT TO ME! I KNEW THEN, EVEN IN MY DAZED CONDITION, THAT SOMETHING HAD BEEN ADDED TO THE WINE! I FELT LIKE A SNARED ANIMAL! I CURSED! BUT IT WASN'T ME THE BLACK-SHAWLED CRONE WANTED!
IT WAS GLORIA! MY GLORIA!
DRUGGED, IN A STUPOR, I SAT THERE, A CHILDLIKE IDIOT, WHILE MY WIFE WAS ROUGHLY DRAGGED ACROSS THE GROUND AND THROWN ATOP AN ALTAR...LIKE A SACRIFICIAL PIECE OF MEAT! AND I COULD DO NOTHING! NOTHING! I WAS HELPLESS...REELING ON THE VERY FRINGES OF CONSCIOUSNESS!

THOUGH MY WITS WERE JUMBLED, I FORCED MYSELF TO WATCH! A SKULL-MASKED EXECUTIONER APPEARED FROM THE SWAMP! BRANDISHING A DAGGER, HE STEPPED ANGRILY TOWARDS MY GLORIA!
IN MY DELIRIUM I THOUGHT MAMA JAMBO HAD CONJURED BARON SAMEDI, THE VOODOO GOD OF THE DEAD! MAYBE SHE DID! I DON'T KNOW! PERHAPS I'LL NEVER KNOW THE FULL EXTENT OF HER POWERS!
WITH A SHARP, VIOLENT THRUST, THE BLADE JABBED DOWN, BITING DEEPLY BETWEEN THE SWEET MOUNDS OF MY WIFE'S TENDER BREASTS! GLORIA WRITHED, VIOLENTLY ARCHING HER BACK! BUT SHE WAS IMPALED AGAINST THE ALTAR LIKE A BEAUTIFUL PINNED BUTTERFLY!
I SCREAMED SOMETHING INCOHERENT AND I HEARD MAMA JAMBO'S HAUNTING LAUGHTER! IT WAS A DRY, CROAKING CACKLE! THEN MY WIFE, THE MAMBO, THE NATIVES... SWIRLED AROUND ME IN BLEARY-EYED CONFUSION!
I REMEMBER NOTHING AFTER THAT! I WAS TAKEN BY BLISSFUL SWEET...OBLIVION!

WHEN I ARRIVED, EVERYONE WAS GONE! ALL I COULD FIND WERE SOME CLOTHING WITH REDDISH STAINS...GLORIA'S BLOOD! I COULDN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED! IN THIS DAY AND AGE WHO'D BELIEVE ME? THEY MIGHT EVEN THINK THAT I MURDERED MY WIFE! AND STATISTICS WOULD BEAR THEM OUT!
NO! I HAD TO TAKE MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS! RUMOR WAS THAT MAMA JAMBO HAD A HUMFOR, A VOODOO SANCTUARY, BACK IN THE HUMID SWAMP LAND! I WAS DETERMINED TO FIND IT!
AS I MADE MY WAY FURTHER INTO THE DISMAL MARSH, SILENT AS A GLIDING SNAKE, SHADOWS SPREAD AND THICKENED ABOUT ME! NIGHTFALL WAS FAST APPROACHING...WHEN THE AGED MAMBO'S POWERS WERE AT THEIR AWESOME HEIGHT! NOW I KNEW WHY SHE HAD HER THREE ZOMBIES ATTACK ME! TO DELAY ME UNTIL HER MAGICKS WERE AT THEIR PEAK!
SUDDENLY A CRACKLING VOICE SHATTERED THE DARKNESS!
DR. COVEN... HOW NICE OF YOU TO JOIN US! HEH HEH!
I DEMANDED A REASON, AN EXPLANATION! WHY HAD MY WIFE AND LET ME GO, I SCREAMED! THE OLD MAMBO TAUNTED ME, TELLING ME SHE WANTED HER LOST BEAUTY RESTORED...BUT EZILI WAS A FICKLE GODDESS WHO DEMANDED MANY SACRIFICES!
MAMA JAMBO KNEW GLORIA'S DEATH WOULD MAKE ME SUFFER! MY AURA WAS NOW PROPERLY CHARGED WITH EMOTION, SHE SAID! SHE KNEW I'D RETURN FOR VENGEANCE...AND WAS GOING TO SACRIFICE ME AT ONCE!
THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO HEAR! WITH A GROWL IN MY THROAT, I LUNGED OFF THE SKIFF STRAIGHT FOR THE OLD WITCH WOMAN!
BUT A LIFELESS HAND DARTING FROM THE WATERS CLAMPED TIGHT AROUND MY ANKLE! IT PULLED ME UNDER JUST AS MAMA JAMBO KNEW IT WOULD. IT WAS A DEATHTRAP READY AND WAITING!

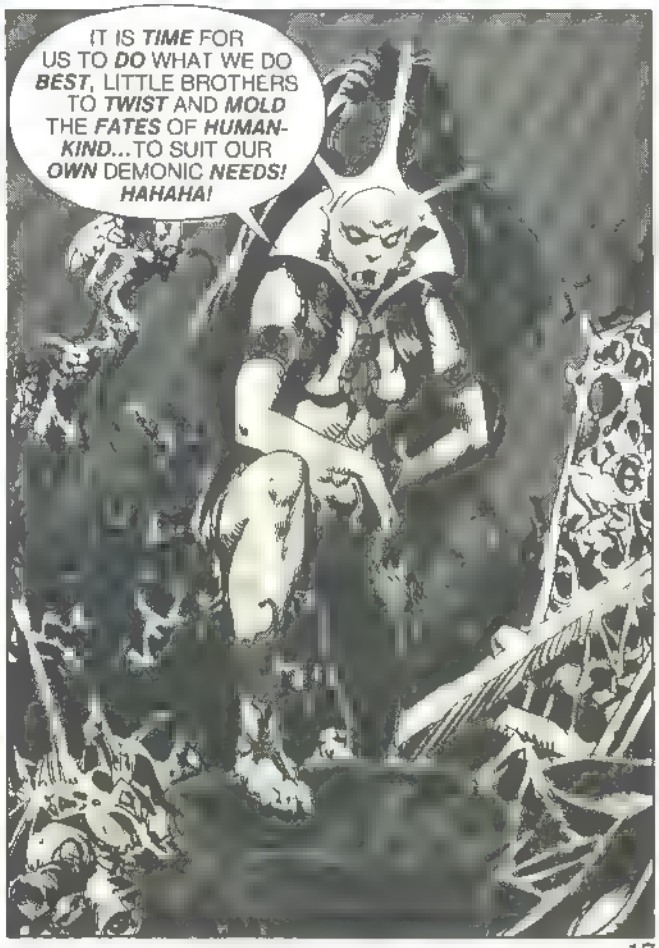
GOOD GOD! GLORIA–!
SHE WAS LIKE A RADIANT SIREN! HER EYES GLOWED WITH A SILVERN SPARKLE! HER HAIR WAVED LIKE TENDRILS OF SEAWEED! YET NO SMALL BUBBLES OF AIR ESCAPED HER LIPS! SHE WAS ONE OF THEM! MY WIFE WAS ONE OF THE DAMNED!
WE GRAPPLED SLOWLY, AWKWARDLY! IT WAS A SUB-SEA BALLET OF DEATH! I STRUGGLED TO RISE! SHE CLUTCHED ME ALL THE TIGHTER, WEIGHING ME DOWN WITH HER LEADEN GRASP!
GLORIA LOCKED HER HANDS AROUND ME! THE EMBRACE WAS ALMOST TENDER! THEN SHE SQUEEZED HER HEAD AGAINST MY CHEST! THE PRESSURE ON MY LUNGS FORCED ME TO EXPEL MORE PRECIOUS AIR!
FOR AN INSTANT, I DIDN'T MIND DYING! NOT IF I COULD BE WITH MY GLORIA! BUT I HAPPENED TO LOOK UP AND I SAW THE SMIRKING HAG AND HER ZOMBIE HORDE AWASH IN PALE MOONLIGHT...!
THE NOTION OF DEATH DIED STILL-BORN IN MY MIND!
ONLY SECONDS LEFT! FORGIVE ME, DARLING, FOR WHAT I MUST DO...!


A CLOUD PASSED ACROSS THE MILKY FACE OF THE MOON AS WE SANK DEEPER INTO THE MURKY WATERS! THE OLD CRONE CACKLED LONG AND LOUDLY...NO DOUBT THINKING I HAD PERISHED!
I WOULD HAVE PAID ANYTHING TO SEE HER WRINKLED FEATURES
...AS I BROKE THE SURFACE HUNGRILY GULPING FOR AIR!
THE MAMBO POINTED HER STAFF AT ME, WANTING TO KNOW HOW I ESCAPED WITH MY LIFE
HOW, WITCH?
THIS IS HOW!
BY HACKING OFF MY DEAD WIFE'S ARMS!
THE WIZENED WOMAN GASPED! SHE NEVER EXPECTED ME TO MUTILATE THE ONE I LOVED THE MOST! SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT THE HATE I HAD FOR HER WAS ALMOST AS GREAT AS MY CARING FOR GLORIA....

DIE, YOU SHRIVELED HAG! MEET YOUR MAKER IN HELL!
I SHOVED THE BAYONET UNDER HER RIBS AND GAVE IT A VICIOUS TWIST, GUTTING HER...SLOWLY AND PAINFULLY! IT WAS A DEATH JUSTLY DESERVED!
BLOOD SLUICED FROM HER GAPING WOUND! SHE FELL TO HER KNEES, A MUTTERED SPELL ON HER THIN LIPS! I WONDERED...WAS SHE ABOUT TO BLAST ME WITH SOME NAMELESS, HELLISH CURSE ...OR PERHAPS TRANSFORM HERSELF INTO A LIFELESS ZOMBIE, ESCAPING THE ETERNAL PULL OF THE GRAVE?
I'LL NEVER KNOW! SHE DIED WITH A LOOK OF AGONY ETCHED ON HER FACE BEFORE SHE COULD COMPLETE HER MUMBLED INCANTATION!
SPUN ON MY HEEL AND HEADED BACK FOR THE BOAT.
THE UNDEADS SHIFTED NERVOUSLY! WITHOUT THEIR MAMBO TO GUIDE THEM, THEY WOULD SOON BE CONSUMED BY THE VERY SWAMP THAT SPAWNED THEM, ASHES TO ASHES...ROT TO ROT!
SUCH WOULD BE THE FATE OF MY GLORIA! MY BELOVED, ONCE BEAUTIFUL, THRICE-CURSED...WIFE.

prologue
DR. JONATHAN CAVIL HATED LONDON! HE STAYED ONLY BECAUSE ONE OF ITS MORE PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITIES WAS ON THE VERGE OF GRANTING HIM TENURE!
'EY MATE COULD Y'GIVE A 'UNGRY BLOKE A 'AND?
BUT WORST OF ALL HE HATED ITS MONSTERS! EVER SINCE HE'D BEEN A CHILD, HE D SEEN THINGS IN THE DARK SKITTERING MOVEMENTS IN THE CORNER OF HIS EYE THAT WOULD DISAPPEAR INTO THE DREARY FILTH OF THE CRUMBLING CITY!
N-NO! NOT AGAIN!?
YET, AS NEAR AS HE COULD DISCOVER DR. JONATHAN CAVIL WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SAW THE REPUGNANTLY CRAWLY LITTLE NIGHT THINGS!
BUT THOSE DIMINUTIVE, DEMONIC SPOTS,' IN CONTRAST...WOULD NOT FORGET HIM!

THE DEMON QUEEN



Author: JONATHAN THOMAS/Illustrator: JOSE ORTIZ

DR. CAVIL WAS IN HIGH SPIRITS WHEN CLASSES BEGAN IN EARLY SEPTEMBER! HIS STUDENTS SEEMED OPEN-MINDED, MANAGEABLE, AND HIS NEW BOOK-IN-PROGRESS ALREADY HAD AN AGREEABLE PUBLISHER!
BUT BEST OF ALL, WAS THE NEW LOVE IN HIS LIFE...DELILAH MALOCHI, A PERT TWENTY-YEAR OLD COED WHO HAD FALLEN MADLY IN LOVE WITH HIM THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL!

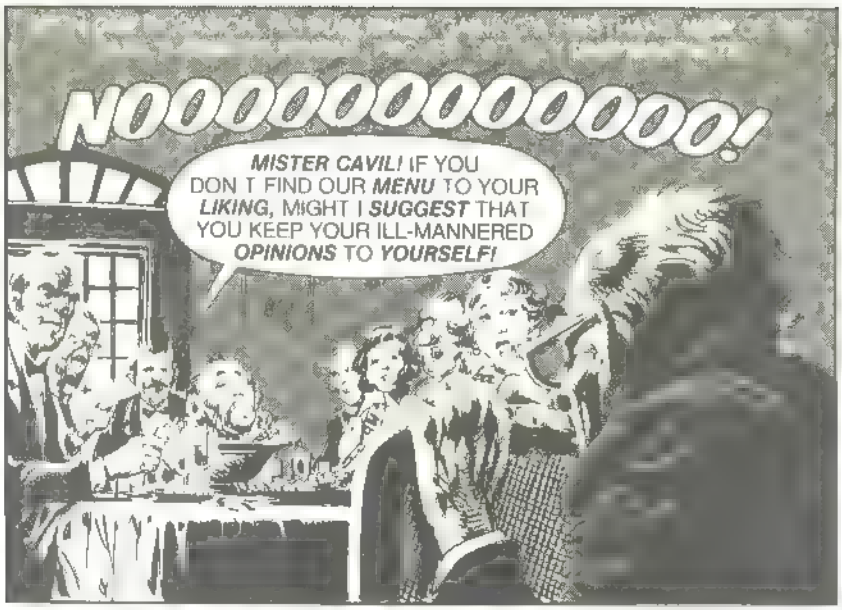
AT FIRST, HE HAD THOUGHT THAT HE WAS TOO OLD FOR HER! BUT THEN, HE REALIZED THAT A MAN WHO WIELDED ACADEMIC POWER OVER IMPRESSIONABLE YOUNG COEDS, AGED VERY SLOWLY INDEED!
DR. CAVIL'S FIRST WEEK UNDER THE NUMBING INFLUENCE OF DELILAH'S SEDUCTIVE PROWESS, WAS THE WEEK HIS HELL-ON-EARTH BEGAN!
SOMETHING WRONG, DEAR?

AT UNGUARDED MOMENTS, DR. CAVIL WOULD FIND HIS SENSES BOMBLASTED BY MORBID ILLUSIONS!
IT...IT WAS NOTHING, CHILD! JUST A TRICK OF THE LIGHT!

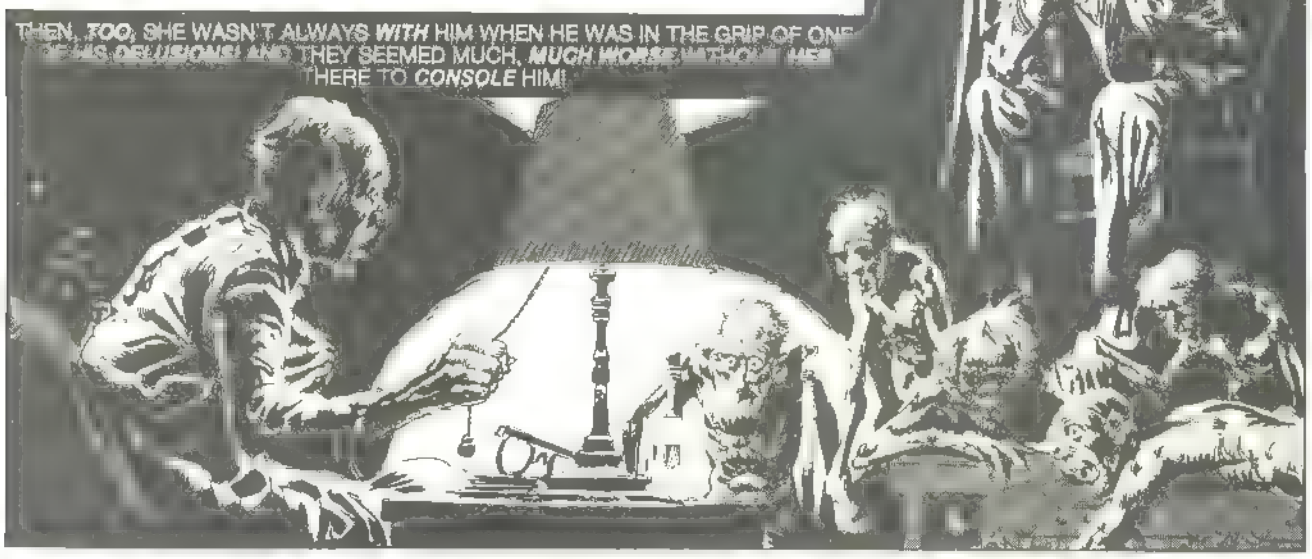
THE INCIDENTS GREW MORE AND MORE FREQUENT...AND WERE ESPECIALLY HUMILIATING WHEN THEY OCCURRED IN FULL VIEW OF A THRONGING AUDIENCE!
TH-THAT MAN--! HE'S COMMITTING SUICIDE!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, MATE?
YOU CRAZY, MAN?
SOME DAMN FOOL BLIGHTER JUST THREW HIS GARBAGE OFF THE ROOF, IS ALL!

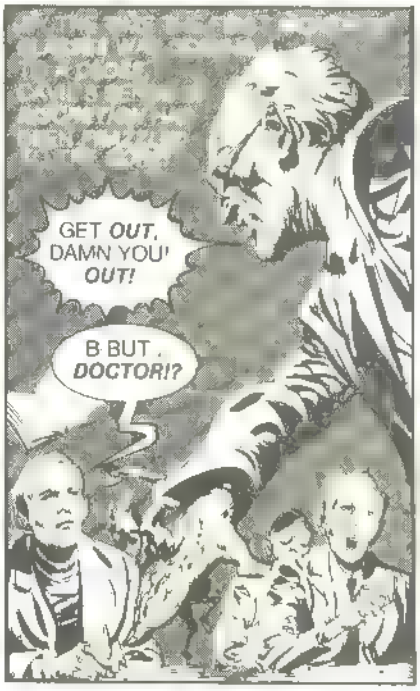
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, CAVIL'S
DAMN IT!
HOW CAN I WRITE...WHEN I CAN'T EVEN THINK?
THE PUBLISHER WAS GROWING IMPATIENT FOR CHAPTERS...AND THE GOOD DOCTOR WAS GROWING IMPATIENT WITH HIMSELF!

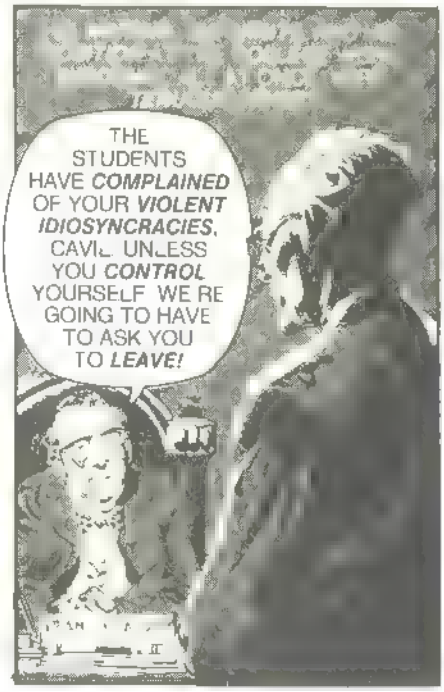

NOOOOOOOOOOOO!
MISTER CAVIL! IF YOU DON'T FIND OUR MENU TO YOUR LIKING, MIGHT I SUGGEST THAT YOU KEEP YOUR ILL-MANNERED OPINIONS TO YOURSELF!

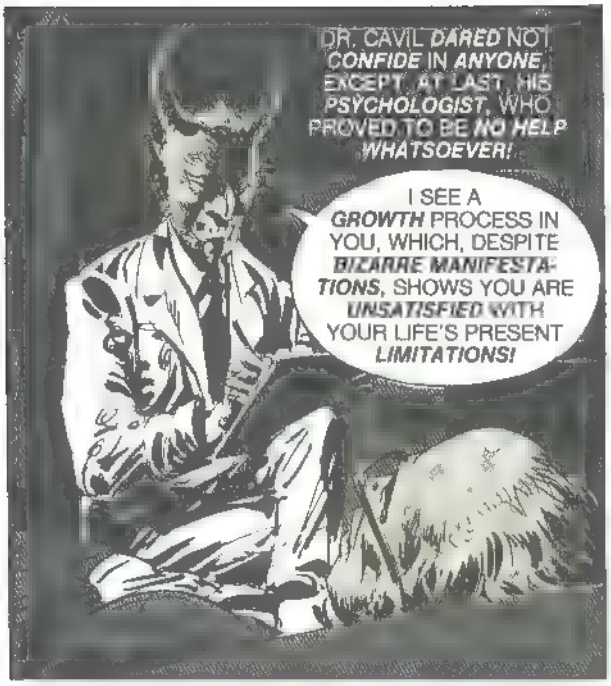
ALTHOUGH CAVIL HAD HAD NO TROUBLE UNTIL HE'D MET DELILAH, SHE WAS NEVER SUSPECTED AS BEING AT THE HEART OF HIS PROBLEM! AFTER ALL, HOW COULD SHE BE RESPONSIBLE?
POOR DEAR... HAVING TROUBLE WRITING AGAIN?


THEN, TOO, SHE WASN'T ALWAYS WITH HIM WHEN HE WAS IN THE GRIP OF ONE OF HIS DELUSIONS! AND THEY SEEMED MUCH, MUCH WORSE WITHOUT HER THERE TO CONSOLE HIM!

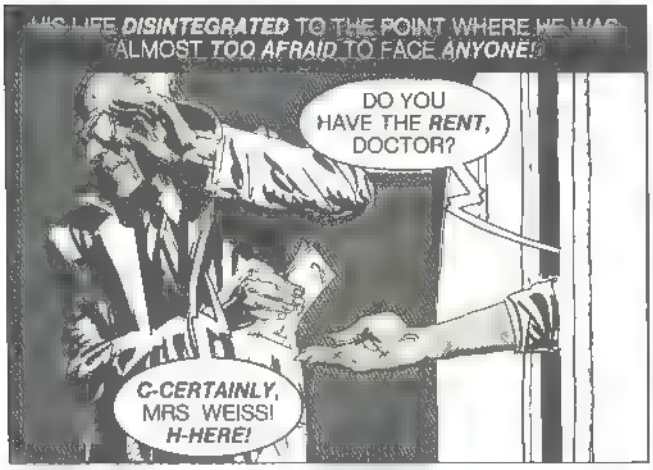
EXCEPT, OF COURSE, UPON THOSE INFREQUENT OCCASIONS WHEN SHE, TOO, BECAME A HORRIBLE PART OF HIS NIGHTMARISH FANTASIES!
N-NO! NOOOOO!

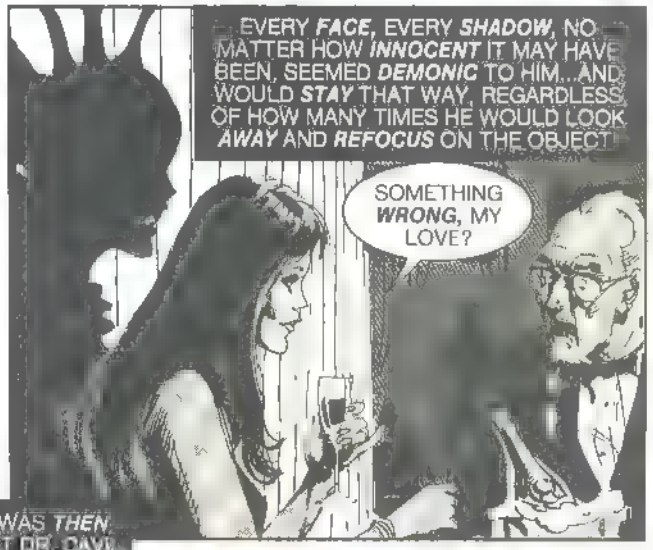

GET OUT, DAMN YOU! OUT!
B-BUT... DOCTOR!?

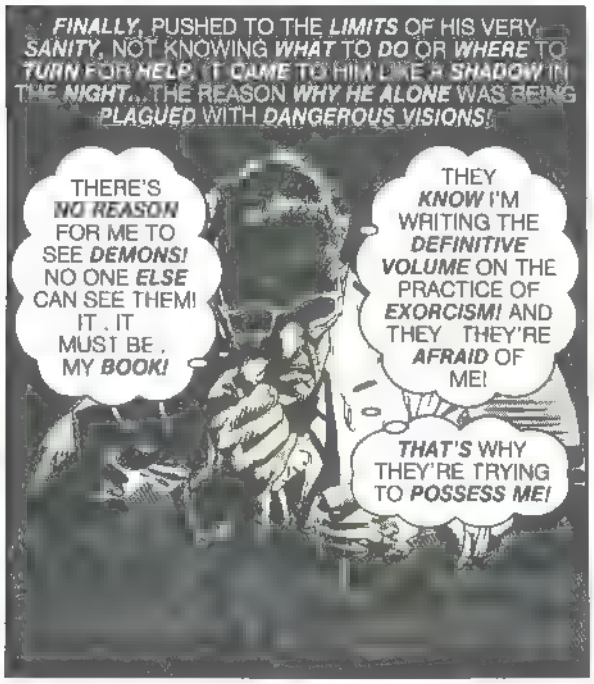

THE STUDENTS HAVE COMPLAINED OF YOUR VIOLENT IDIOSYNCRACIES, CAVIL. UNLESS YOU CONTROL YOURSELF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE!


DR. CAVIL DARED NOT CONFIDE IN ANYONE, EXCEPT, AT LAST, HIS PSYCHOLOGIST, WHO PROVED TO BE NO HELP WHATSOEVER!
I SEE A GROWTH PROCESS IN YOU, WHICH, DESPITE BIZARRE MANIFESTATIONS, SHOWS YOU ARE UNSATISFIED WITH YOUR LIFE'S PRESENT LIMITATIONS!

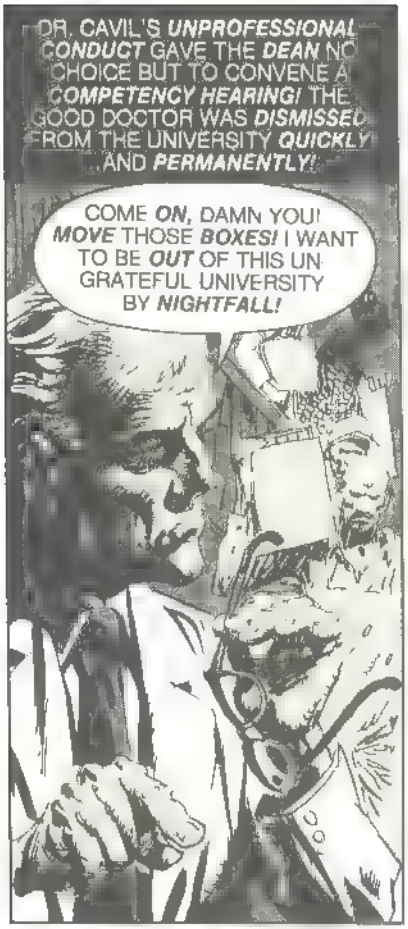
JONATHAN CAVIL WAS UNSATISFIED, ALL RIGHT! AND GROWING MORE SO WITH EACH PASSING DAY!
WHERE TO, MATE?


HIS LIFE DISINTEGRATED TO THE POINT WHERE HE WAS ALMOST TOO AFRAID TO FACE ANYONE!
DO YOU HAVE THE RENT, DOCTOR?
C-CERTAINLY, MRS WEISS! H-HERE!


EVERY FACE, EVERY SHADOW, NO MATTER HOW INNOCENT IT MAY HAVE BEEN, SEEMED DEMONIC TO HIM...AND WOULD STAY THAT WAY, REGARDLESS OF HOW MANY TIMES HE WOULD LOOK AWAY AND REFOCUS ON THE OBJECT!
SOMETHING WRONG, MY LOVE?


FINALLY, PUSHED TO THE LIMITS OF HIS VERY SANITY, NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO OR WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP, IT CAME TO HIM LIKE A SHADOW IN THE NIGHT...THE REASON WHY HE ALONE WAS BEING PLAGUED WITH DANGEROUS VISIONS!
THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO SEE DEMONS! NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE THEM! IT . IT MUST BE . MY BOOK!
THEY KNOW I'M WRITING THE DEFINITIVE VOLUME ON THE PRACTICE OF EXORCISM! AND THEY THEY'RE AFRAID OF ME!
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE TRYING TO POSSESS ME!

IT WAS THEN THAT DR. CAVIL BEGAN TO FIGHT BACK... CONFRONTING THE DEMONIC APPARITIONS WHEREVER THEY APPEARED!
LEAVE ME ALONE, DAMN YOU! GO TELL YOUR DEMON MASTERS THAT CAVIL'S NOT AFRAID!
YOU BETTER BE, BLOKE 'CAUSE I'M ABOUT TO SMASH YOUR CRAZY FACE IN!


DR. CAVIL'S UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT GAVE THE DEAN NO CHOICE BUT TO CONVENE A COMPETENCY HEARING! THE GOOD DOCTOR WAS DISMISSED FROM THE UNIVERSITY QUICKLY ...AND PERMANENTLY!
COME ON, DAMN YOU! MOVE THOSE BOXES! I WANT TO BE OUT OF THIS UN GRATEFUL UNIVERSITY BY NIGHTFALL!

TIRED OF BROKEN DEADLINES, HIS PUBLISHER CANCELLED CAVIL'S BOOK, ALSO PERMANENTLY! AND THE FRUITLESS GESTURE OF SCATTERING HIS MANUSCRIPT TO THE WIND DIDN'T BOLSTER THE DOCTOR'S SPIRITS ONE IOTA!
GO AHEAD! TAKE IT! TAKE EVERYTHING! I DON'T CARE IF IT'S EVER PUBLISHED!

WHAT WAS AN OLD BACHELOR TO DO WITH NO PUBLISHER, NO TENURE AND NO ONE TO TURN TO...EXCEPT A TWENTY-YEAR OLD CHILD WHO KNEW NOTHING OF HIS INSANE VISIONS!?
DON'T BE SAD, JONATHAN COME! LET'S WALK IN THE PARK!

THE PARK...! IT WAS NICE! IT SOOTHED JONATHAN CAVIL AS MUCH AS HIS TORMENTED SOUL COULD BE SOOTHED! WHY THEN, DID KNOTS OF APPREHENSION TWIST HIS STOMACH, HE WONDERED? HE LEARNED SOON ENOUGH, WHEN DELILAH BROKE THE SILENCE...!
DO YOU BELIEVE IN DEMONS, JONATHAN?
D-DEMONS!? WHY DO YOU ASK?

I'VE LIVED WITH YOU LOVED YOU FOR THE PAST MONTH! DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD HIDE YOUR VISIONS FROM ME?
THEN YOU KNOW! THEY THEY'RE EVERYWHERE, DELILAH! THEY PLAGUE MY EVERY WAKING MOMENT!

OF COURSE, I KNOW, DEAREST! YOU SEE I'M ONE OF THEM!

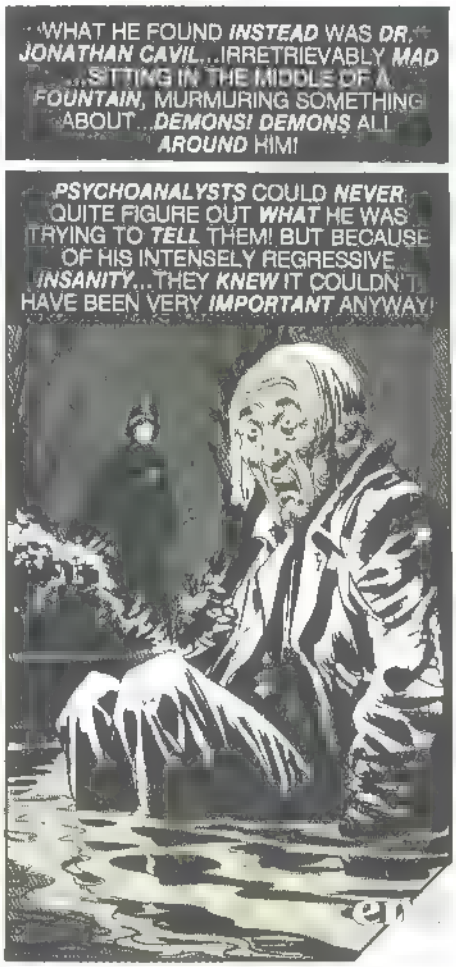
THE FRAZZLED DOOTOR HEARD HER WORDS...AND THAT SMALL PORTION OF SANITY WHICH REMAINED, KNEW SHE SPOKE THE TRUTH! YET, SOMEHOW, IT DIDN'T SEEM TO MATTER! NOTHING MATTERED ANY LONGER, FOR DR. JONATHAN CAVIL HAD BEEN PUSHED BEYOND HUMAN MENTAL ENDURANCE!
OUR HARASSMENT HAS LEFT YOU MAD, JONATHAN! UTTERLY, IRREVERSIBLY, INCONTESTABLY INSANE!

YOU KNOW WHY WE'VE SINGLED YOU OUT, DON'T YOU, MY LOVE?
YOUR BOOK...! IT COULD HAVE BEEN QUITE HARMFUL TO OUR KIND!

WE COULDN'T ALLOW IT TO BE PUBLISHED, JONATHAN! IT WOULD HAVE GIVEN HUMANITY TOO GREAT AN EDGE!
HE HE HE!
SNICKER! SNIGGER!

WE HAD TO DISCREDIT YOU, DEAREST! MAKE IT SO NO ONE WOULD EVER BELIEVE YOU! TRUE, WE COULD HAVE KILLED YOU BUT MADNESS IS A MUCH MORE INTOLERABLE HELL!
N-NO! NOOOO!
NOOOOO!

THE NEXT MORNING, AN UNSUSPECTING CONSTABLE HEARD A STRANGE, ALMOST FRIGHTENING BABBLING IN THE PARK! ALL HE EXPECTED TO FIND WAS A STRAY, SHIVERING DRUNK CURLED UP ON A BED OF NEWSPAPER!


WHAT HE FOUND INSTEAD WAS DR. JONATHAN CAVIL...IRRETRIEVABLY MAD ...SITTING IN THE MIDDLE OF A FOUNTAIN, MURMURING SOMETHING ABOUT...DEMONS! DEMONS ALL AROUND HIM!
PSYCHOANALYSTS COULD NEVER QUITE FIGURE OUT WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO TELL THEM! BUT BECAUSE OF HIS INTENSELY REGRESSIVE INSANITY...THEY KNEW IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN VERY IMPORTANT ANYWAY!

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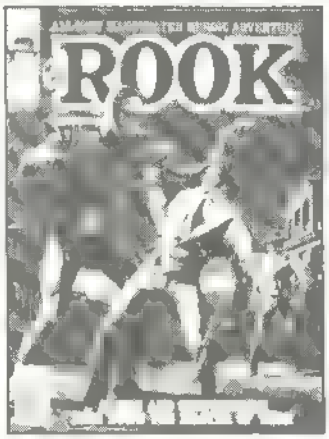

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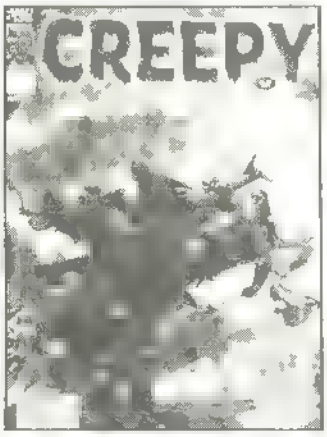

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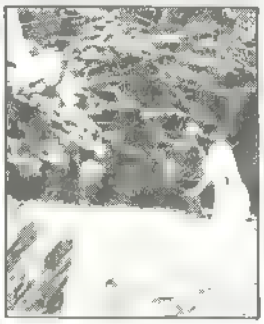
BERNI WRIGHTSON BOOK AND PORTFOLIO



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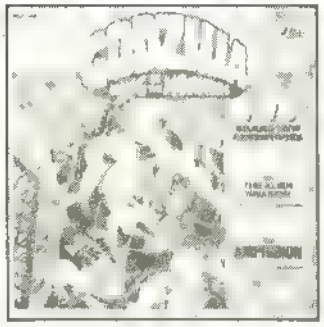

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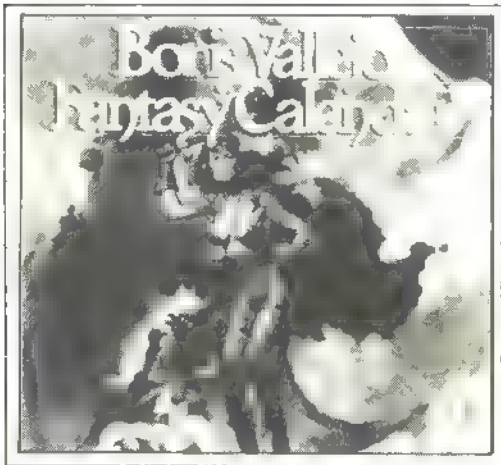

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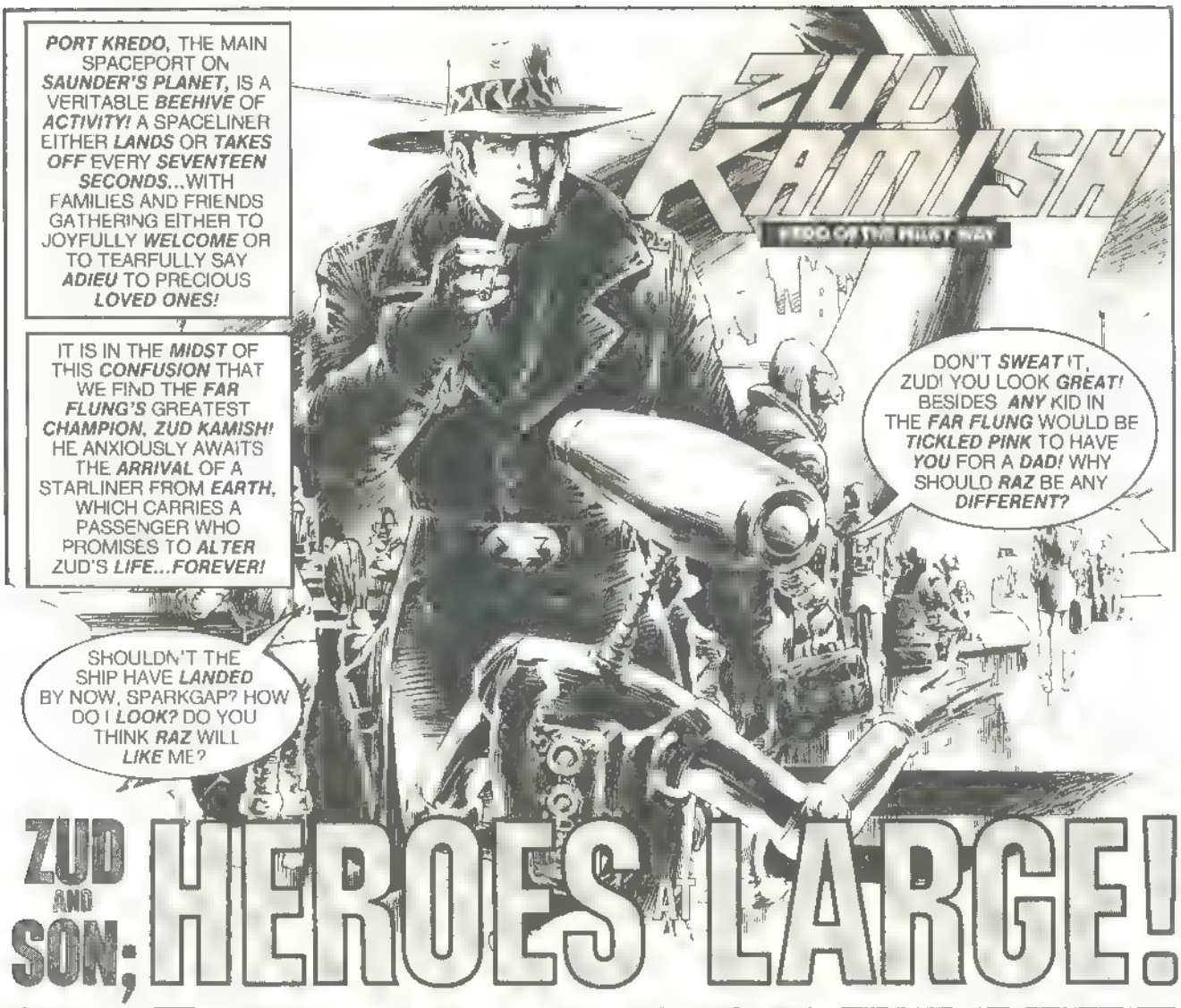
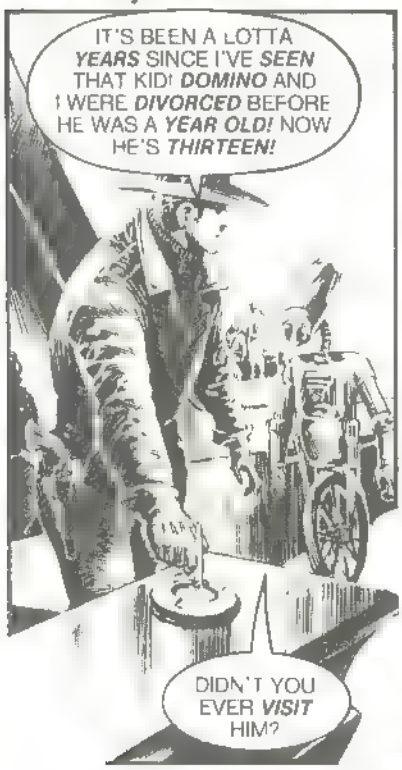
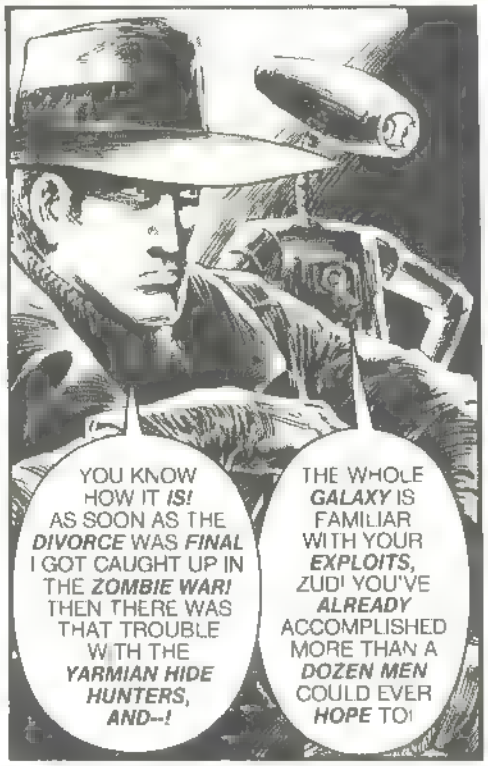
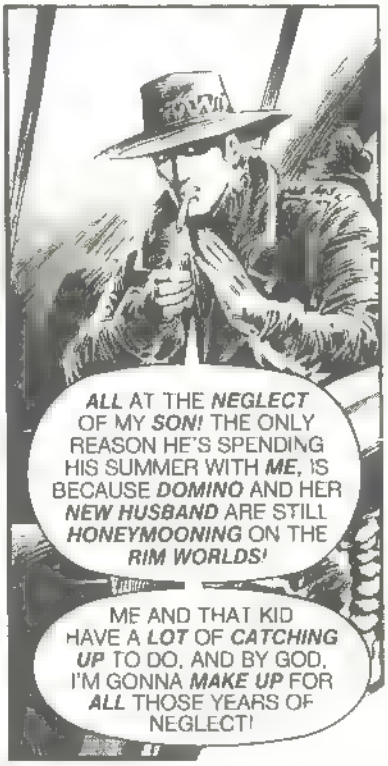


ZUD AND SON; HEROES LARGE!







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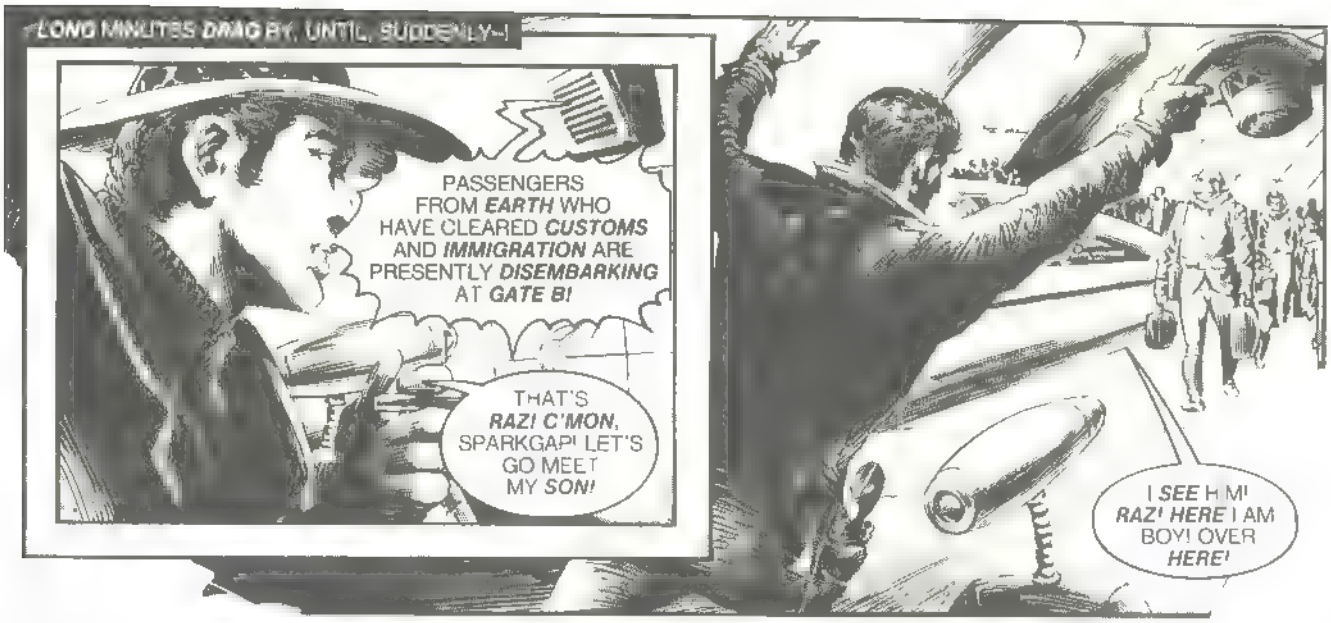
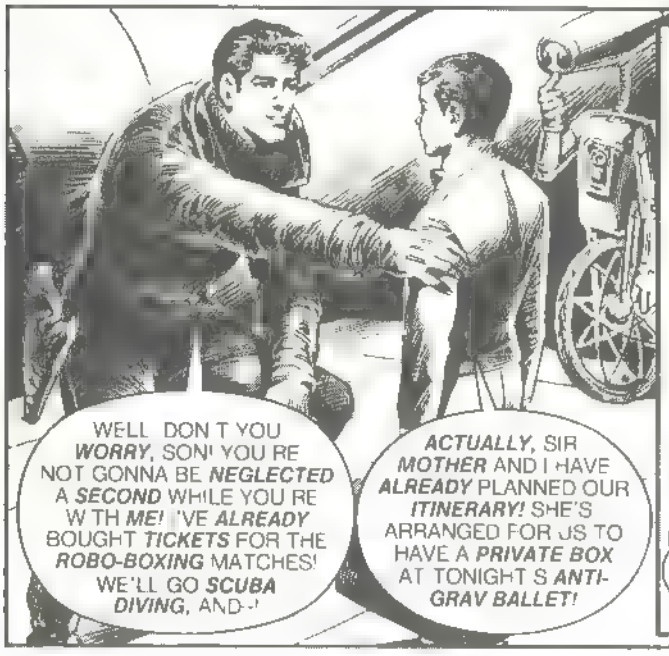

LONG MINUTES DRAG BY, UNTIL, SUDDENLY--!
PASSENGERS FROM EARTH WHO HAVE CLEARED CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION ARE PRESENTLY DISEMBARKING AT GATE B!
THAT'S RAZ! C'MON, SPARKGAP! LET'S GO MEET MY SON!
I SEE HIM! RAZ! HERE I AM BOY! OVER HERE!

RAZ! BY GOD IT'S GREAT TO--!
FATHER? PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, SIR!

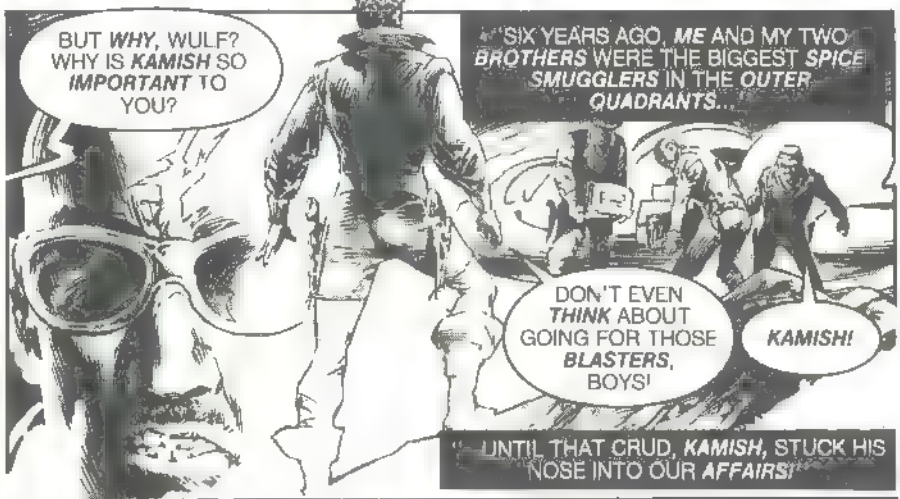
I'M FLATTERED THAT YOU SAW FIT TO GREET ME PERSONALLY! HOWEVER, IT REALLY WASN'T NECESSARY!
MOTHER USUALLY DISPATCHES A SERVO-DRONE TO FETCH ME


WELL, DON'T YOU WORRY, SON! YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE NEGLECTED A SECOND WHILE YOU'RE W/TH ME! I'VE ALREADY BOUGHT TICKETS FOR THE ROBO-BOXING MATCHES! WE'LL GO SCUBA DIVING, AND--!
ACTUALLY, SIR MOTHER AND I HAVE ALREADY PLANNED OUR ITINERARY! SHE'S ARRANGED FOR US TO HAVE A PRIVATE BOX AT TONIGHT'S ANTI-GRAV BALLET!

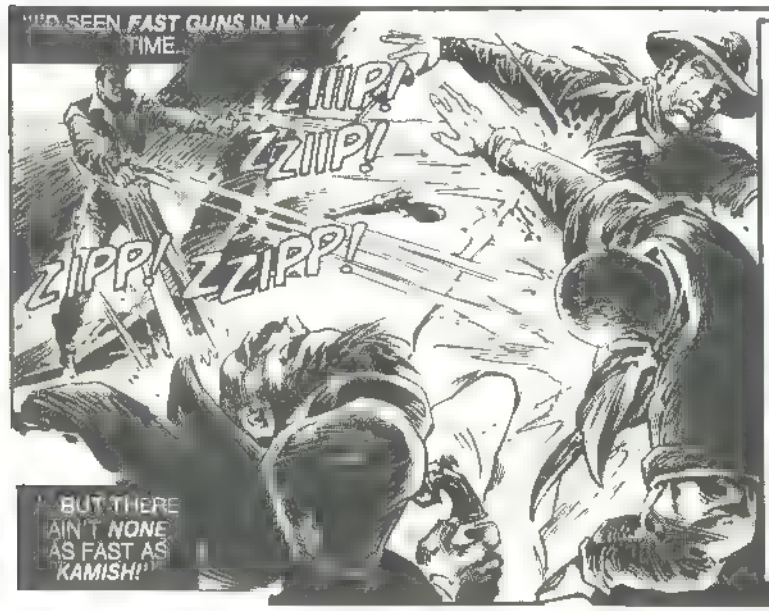
B-BALLET?
SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT BEING THE IDEAL FATHER IS GOING TO BE A LOT HARDER THAN I'D FIGURED!

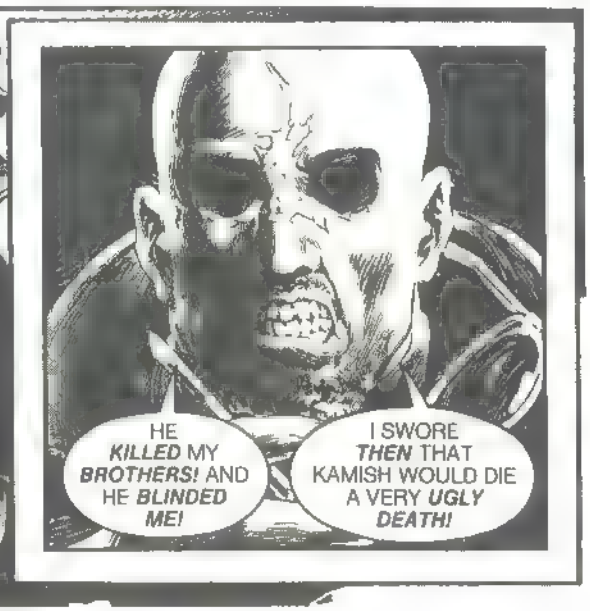
AND THEN *TOMORROW NIGHT* THERE'S A *TRI-D IMPRESSIONISTIC ART EXHIBIT* OPENING AT THE *LURIAN CULTURAL CENTER!*
WELL, UH IF THAT'S WHAT YOU *WANT*, SON--!
NOW, WULF?
NO, ODO! NOT *YET!*

YOU RE *A FOOL*, WULF! I HAD *KAMISH* IN MY *SIGHTS!*
I DON'T WANT KAMISH TO *DIE* TOO *QUICKLY*, MY COLD-BLOODED FRIEND! I WANT HIM TO KNOW *WHY* HE'S DYING AND THAT *I* AM HIS *EXECUTIONER!*


BUT *WHY*, WULF? WHY IS *KAMISH* SO *IMPORTANT* TO YOU?
"SIX YEARS AGO, *ME* AND MY TWO *BROTHERS* WERE THE BIGGEST *SPICE SMUGGLERS* IN THE *OUTER QUADRANTS...*
DON'T EVEN *THINK* ABOUT GOING FOR THOSE *BLASTERS*, BOYS!
KAMISH!
"UNTIL THAT CRUD, *KAMISH*, STUCK HIS NOSE INTO OUR *AFFAIRS!*"

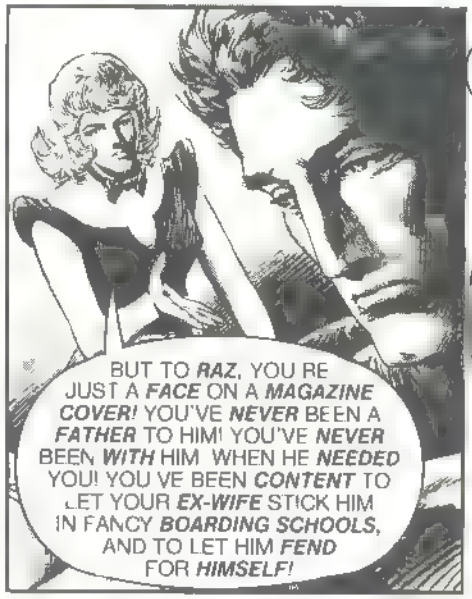
HE CAN T TAKE *ALL* OF US, PETEY!
GUN HIM!


"I'D SEEN *FAST GUNS* IN MY TIME...
ZIIIP!
ZZIIP!
ZIPP! ZZIPP!
BUT THERE AIN'T *NONE* AS FAST AS *KAMISH!*"


HE *KILLED* MY *BROTHERS!* AND HE *BLINDED ME!*
I SWORE *THEN* THAT KAMISH WOULD DIE A VERY *UGLY DEATH!*

LATER...AT ZUD'S FAMED INTERSTELLAR ESTATE...!
WHY THE LONG FACE, LOVER? YOU VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO RAZ'S VISIT FOR WEEKS! YOU SHOULD BE THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD TODAY!
CAN IT, STELLA THINGS BETWEEN RAZ AND ME AIN'T WORKING OUT THE WAY I THOUGHT THEY WOULD!
WHAT S WRONG? DISAPPOINTED THAT YOUR SON'S NOT IN AWE BECAUSE YOU'RE THE FAMOUS ZUD KAMISH?
I M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR ANY OF YOUR SARCASM, STEL!

YOU'RE THE BIGGEST DAMNED FOOL IN THE WHOLE FAR FLUNG, ZUD!
YOU EXPECT A KID, WHOM YOU HAVEN'T SEEN SINCE HE WAS A BABY, TO ROCKET INTO YOUR LIFE AND TO LOVE YOU WITH EVERY FIBER OF HIS BEING!

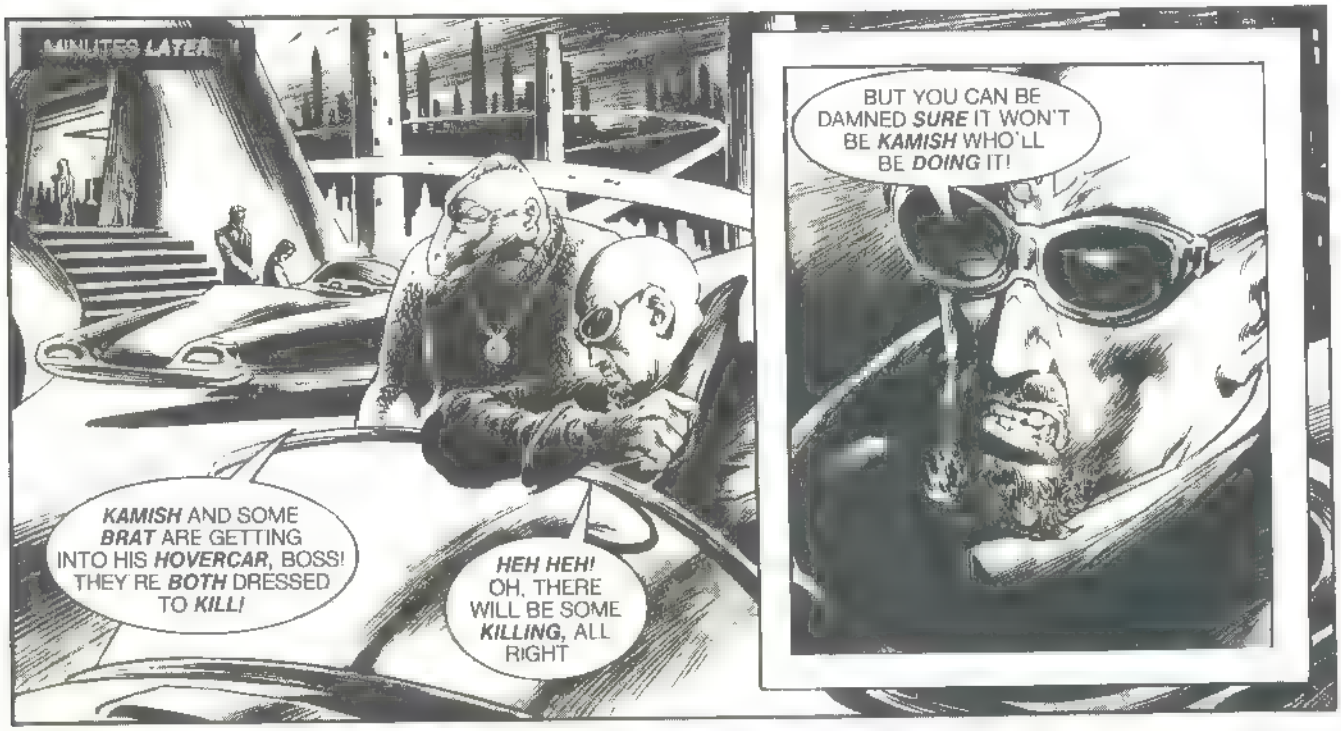

BUT TO RAZ, YOU RE JUST A FACE ON A MAGAZINE COVER! YOU'VE NEVER BEEN A FATHER TO HIM! YOU'VE NEVER BEEN WITH HIM WHEN HE NEEDED YOU! YOU VE BEEN CONTENT TO LET YOUR EX-WIFE STICK HIM IN FANCY BOARDING SCHOOLS, AND TO LET HIM FEND FOR HIMSELF!

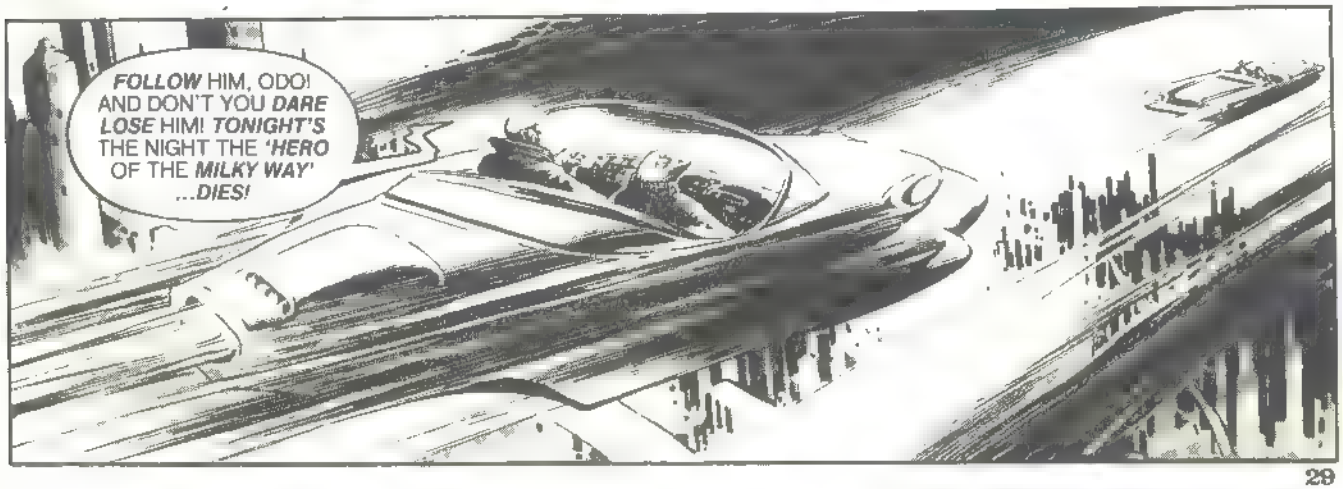
JUST BECAUSE HE D RATHER GO TO A BALLET THAN A BOXING MATCH DOESN'T MAKE HIM SOME KIND OF SISSY!
HE'S NOT! HE'S TOUGH! HE'S HAD TO BE TOUGH! BECAUSE DESPITE ALL THE MONEY AND ALL THOSE FANCY SCHOOLS, HE'S ALONE! AND IF YOU DON'T TAKE THE TIME TO GET TO KNOW HIM, THEN THAT POOR KID IS LIABLE TO LIVE HIS WHOLE LIFE AS A LONER!

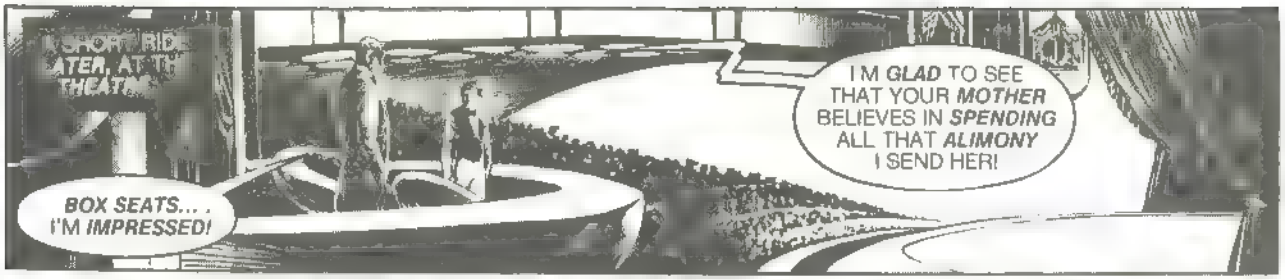
YOU'RE RIGHT, STEL! HOW CAN I EXPECT THE KID TO LOVE A STRANGER?
I GUESS THE FIRST STEP WILL BE FOR THE TWO OF US TO BECOME . FRIENDS!
I KNEW IF I BANGED THE IDEA AGAINST YOUR HEAD LONG ENOUGH, IT WOULD EVENTUALLY SINK IN!

STEL I DON'T KNOW WHAT I D DO WITHOUT YOU!

LATER, AS ZUD DRESSES FOR THE BALLET...!
HERE'S YOUR PIECE, ZUD! ALL OILED AND CHARGED!
THANKS, SPARKGAP, BUT I WON'T BE NEEDING THE HARDWARE TONIGHT!
ZUD KAMISH, HERO, CARRIES AN ARSENAL WHEREVER HE GOES! TONIGHT I'M JUST GOING TO BE ZUD KAMISH FATHER!
BRAVO, ZUD!
ORGANISMS! THEIR ILLOGICAL PROGRAMMING NEVER CEASES TO CONFUSE ME!

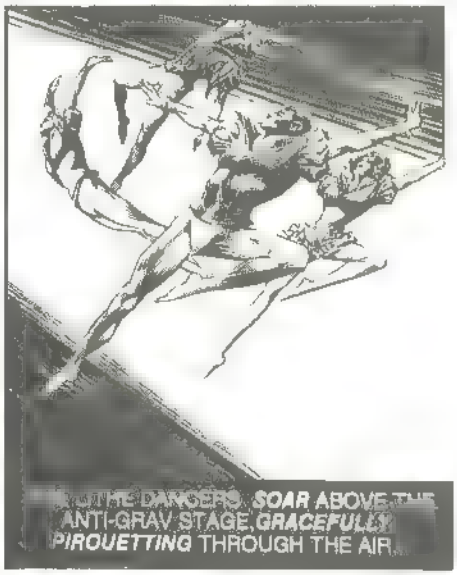

MINUTES LATER...!
KAMISH AND SOME BRAT ARE GETTING INTO HIS HOVERCAR, BOSS! THEY RE BOTH DRESSED TO KILL!
HEH HEH! OH, THERE WILL BE SOME KILLING, ALL RIGHT
BUT YOU CAN BE DAMNED SURE IT WON'T BE KAMISH WHO'LL BE DOING IT!


FOLLOW HIM, ODO! AND DON'T YOU DARE LOSE HIM! TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT THE 'HERO OF THE MILKY WAY' ...DIES!


SHORT RID
ATER, AT TH
THEATE
BOX SEATS... I'M IMPRESSED!
I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT YOUR MOTHER BELIEVES IN SPENDING ALL THAT ALIMONY I SEND HER!

AS THE LIGHTS DIM, RAZ'S EXCITEMENT GROWS
ANTO KOTOV IS DANCING TONIGHT! HE WAS MY TEACHER LAST SEMESTER AT THE ACADEMY!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN ANYONE SO EXCITED! THE KID MUST REALLY LOVE BALLET!

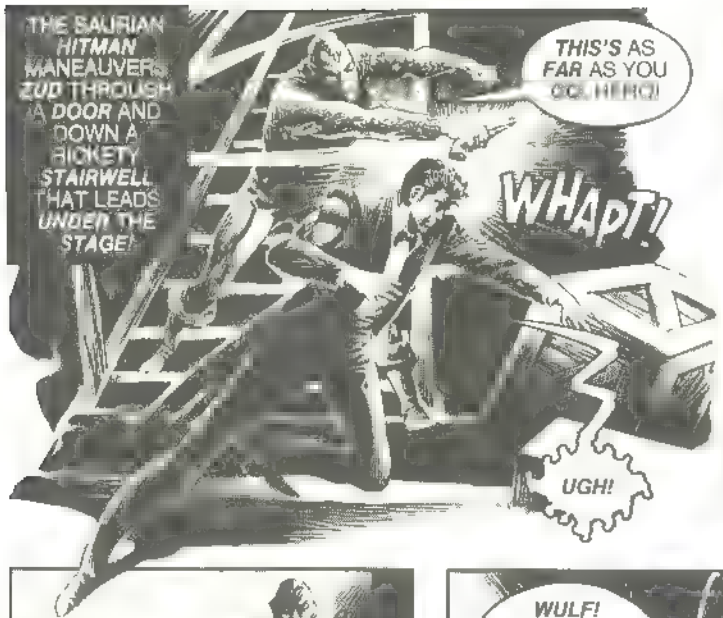
IF I'M LUCKY, MAYBE ONE DAY. HE'LL LOVE ME JUST HALF AS MUCH!


WITH THE DANCERS, SOAR ABOVE THE ANTI-GRAV STAGE, GRACEFULLY PIROUETTING THROUGH THE AIR.

TO THE DELIGHT OF VIRTUALLY ALL
OH, FATHER THESE PERFORMANCES PASS FAR TOO QUICKLY FOR ME!
YAWN
AND NOT QUICKLY ENOUGH FOR ME!

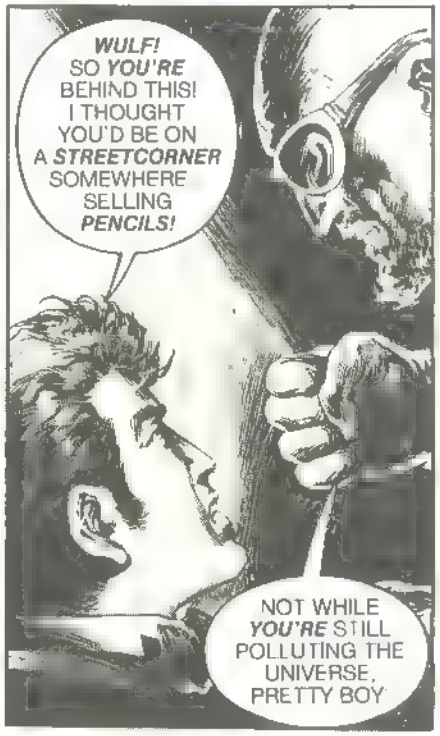
THERE'S A FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION, RAZ! DO YOU WANT TO COME TO THE REFRESHMENT COUNTER WITH ME?
THANKS, NO! I THOUGHT I'D GO BACKSTAGE AND SEE ANTO!
UH SURE!
IMAGINE! ME AT THE BALLET! I WONDER WHAT THE OLD COMETEERS WOULD THINK--?
DON'T EVEN TWITTER, KAMISH!

JUST ONE FUNNY MOVE AND I'LL SCATTER YOUR GUTS FROM HERE TO ANTARES!
STAY COOL, BROTHER! IT'S YOUR GAME...SO WE'LL PLAY BY YOUR RULES!


THE SAURIAN HITMAN MANEAUVERS ZUD THROUGH A DOOR AND DOWN A RICKETY STAIRWELL THAT LEADS UNDER THE STAGE!
THIS'S AS FAR AS YOU GO, HERO!
WHAPT!
UGH!

ZUD'S HEAD THROBS WITH PAIN, AS, SOMETIME LATER, HE REGAINS HIS SENSES.
OOOHHHH... M-MY HEAD! D-DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I WAS OUT!
N-NO! MY HANDS ARE TIED, A-AND--!

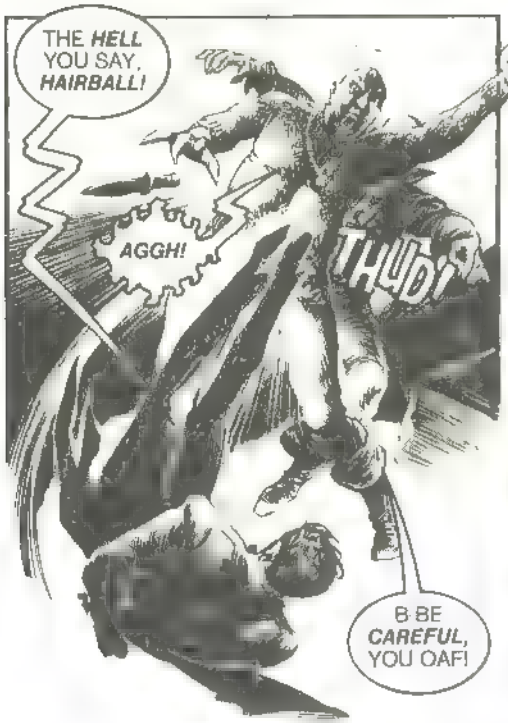
SAVE YOUR STRENGTH, KAMISH! THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE GONNA GET OUT OF HERE IN ONE PIECE!


WULF! SO YOU'RE BEHIND THIS! I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ON A STREETCORNER SOMEWHERE SELLING PENCILS!
NOT WHILE YOU'RE STILL POLLUTING THE UNIVERSE, PRETTY BOY

YOU'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF IF YOU'D KILLED ME, INSTEAD OF JUST SEARING MY EYES OUT!
NOW YOU'RE ABOUT TO PAY FOR THAT MISTAKE!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME THEN HURRY IT UP, WULF! YOUR LONG-WINDED MONOLOGUE IS BORING ME TO TEARS!

YOU'LL DIE, HERO, BUT NOT BEFORE YOU SAMPLE THE BLACK HELL TO WHICH YOU'VE CONDEMNED ME!
AND THEN I'M GOING TO SCRAPE OFF THE SKIN. .
ODO! FIRST THE EYES, AND THEN !

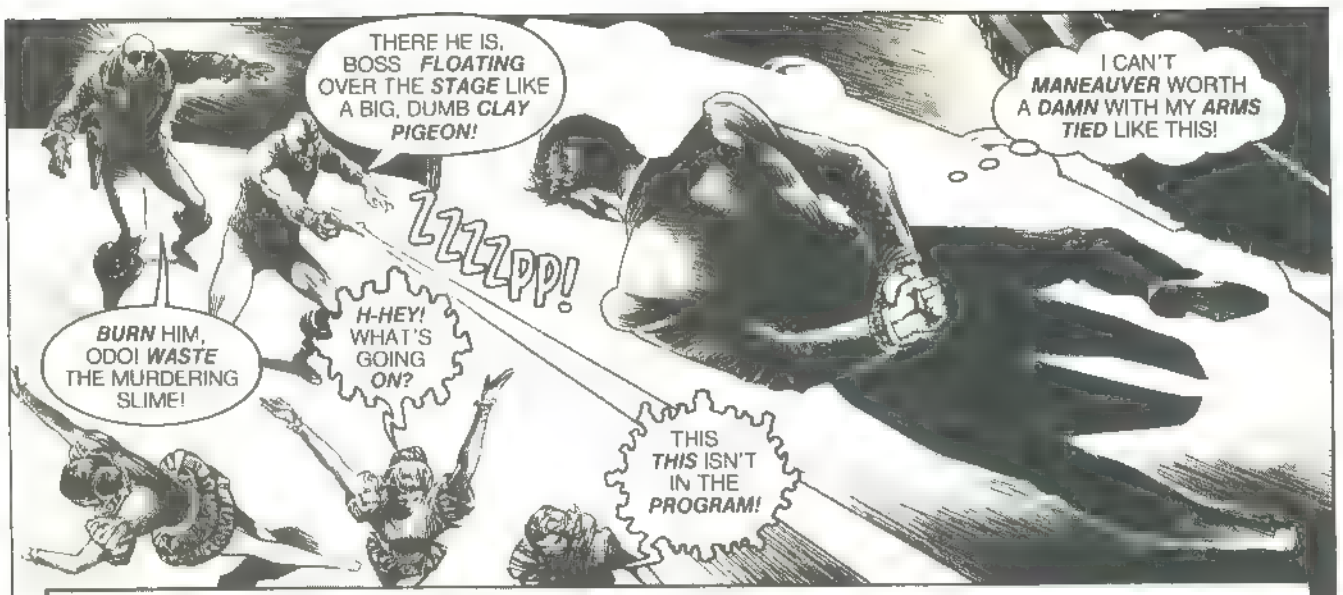
...ONE LAYER AT A TIME! YOU'LL LIVE FOR HOURS, LAWDOG! YOUR NERVES EXPOSED, PULSATING WITH PAIN! YOU'LL BEG FOR DEATH! AND THEN--!


THE HELL YOU SAY, HAIRBALL!
AGGH!
THUD!
B-BE CAREFUL, YOU OAF!

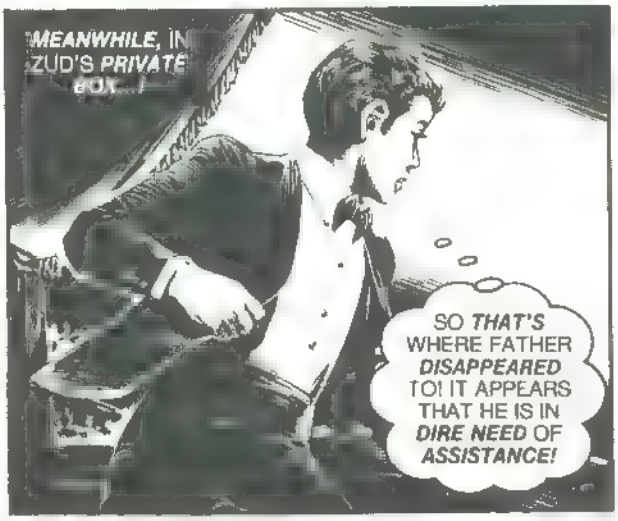
THANK GOD MOST LAWBREAKERS ARE BORN RETARDED! IT MAKES THIS HERO BUSINESS A HECK OF A LOT EASIER!
G-GET HIM!
STOP HIM, YOU BIG, CLUMSY LIZARD!

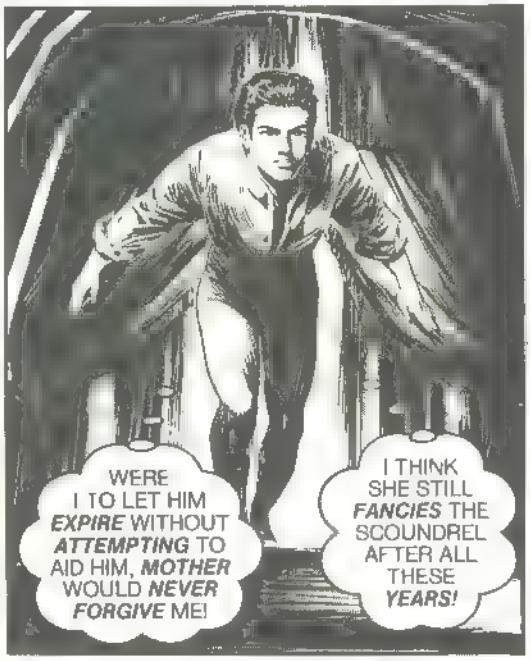
IF THOSE TWITS HAD THOUGHT TO TIE MY FEET I'D HAVE BEEN A GONER!
NOW... IF I CAN ONLY GET MY HANDS FREE!

I'M GONNA HAVE TO DO SOMETHING PRETTY QUICK!
NOTHING CAN OUTRUN ONE OF THOSE SAURIANS! ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE MAD!
THIS WAY OUT LOOKS AS GOOD AS ANY!
DAMN! NO! NOOO! NOT THIS! IT LEADS RIGHT ONTO THE STAGE!
AND... AND I'M CAUGHT IN THE POWERFUL PULL OF THE ANTI-GRAV PLATES!
I'M A FLOATING TARGET FOR THOSE DEEP-SPACE DESPERADOES!


THERE HE IS, BOSS *FLOATING* OVER THE *STAGE* LIKE A BIG, DUMB *CLAY PIGEON!*
I CAN'T *MANEAUVER* WORTH A *DAMN* WITH MY *ARMS TIED* LIKE THIS!
ZZZZPP!
BURN HIM, ODO! *WASTE* THE MURDERING SLIME!
H-HEY! WHAT'S GOING *ON?*
THIS *THIS* ISN'T IN THE *PROGRAM!*

ONE OR TWO *BLASTS MORE* AND HE'LL HAVE MY *RANGE!* THEN IT'S BYE BYE *ZUDIE!*


MEANWHILE, IN ZUD'S *PRIVATE* BOX...!
SO *THAT'S* WHERE FATHER *DISAPPEARED* TO! IT APPEARS THAT HE IS IN *DIRE NEED* OF *ASSISTANCE!*

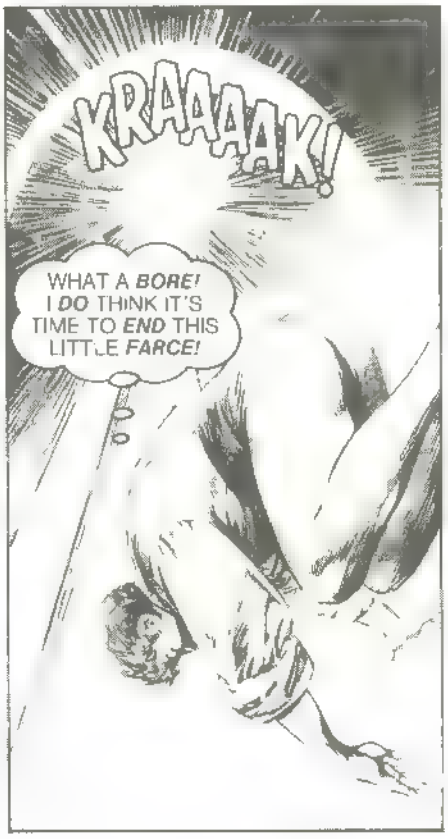

WERE I TO LET HIM *EXPIRE* WITHOUT *ATTEMPTING* TO AID HIM, *MOTHER* WOULD *NEVER FORGIVE* ME!
I THINK SHE STILL *FANCIES* THE SCOUNDREL AFTER ALL THESE *YEARS!*

I *DO* HOPE I'VE EXERTED ENOUGH *THRUST* IN MY *LEAP!*
SHOULD I FALL *SHORT* OF THE ANTI-GRAV PLATE'S *ZONE* OF *INFLUENCE,* I WILL MAKE A SIMPLY *ODIOUS MESS...ALL* OVER THE PALLADIUM *FLOOR!*

THE BOY EXTENDS HIS LEAP, PERFORMING A PERFECT THREE-ROLL SOMERSAULT IN MID-AIR...
I PRAY THAT THIS MANEAUVER WORKS!
LANDING SQUARELY UPON HIS
RAZ! YOU FOOL! GET YOURSELF TO SAFETY!
IN A MOMENT, FATHER! THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE FIRST!
ZZZZZZT!
KRAAK!

ODO! WHAT'S HAPPENED? IS IS KAMISH DEAD, YET?
THAT KID WHO WAS WITH HIM, JUST SHOVED HIM OUTTA THE WAY OF MY SHOT!
THEN KILL THEM BOTH, YOU CLOD NOW!!

ZZZZZZZZT!
KRAAK!
I I M TRYING, MASTER! 'M .TRYING!


KRAAAAAK!
WHAT A BORE! I DO THINK IT'S TIME TO END THIS LITTLE FARCE!

YOU'VE *RUINED* A *PERFECTLY GOOD* OUTING TO THE THEATRE, YOU *CUR!*
GOOD GOING, RAZ!
UGH!

WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT BEING *SHOT, ZUD* MANAGES TO *LAND,* AND...!
DAMN YOUR SCALY HIDE *ODO!* WHAT'S *HAPPENING!!*
YOUR *CLOWN* IS *KNOCKED OUT,* WULF! THANKS TO MY *SON!*

S-SON?! OH, NO *NOOOO!* THE UNIVERSE ISN'T *BIG* ENOUGH FOR *TWO* OF YOU!

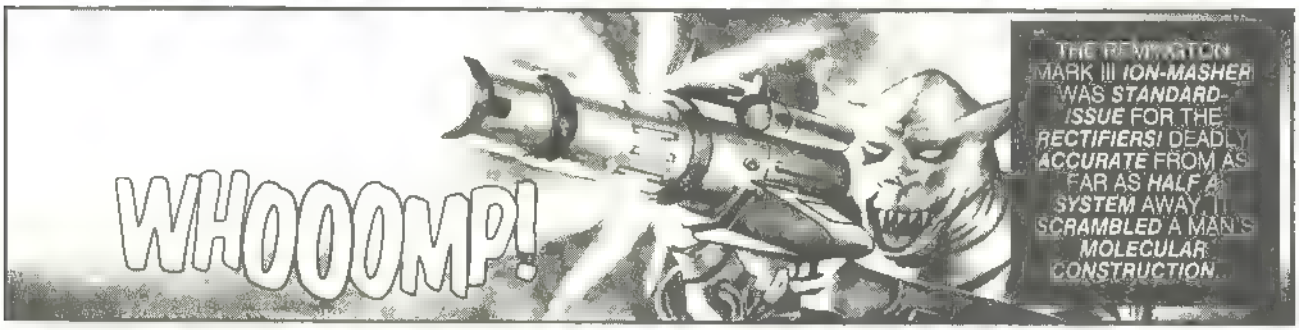
WITHIN *MOMENTS,* THE POLICE *RIOT SQUAD* ARRIVES TO TAKE *COMMAND...!*
WHERE'D YOU LEARN SUCH *FANCY MOVES,* SON? YOU WERE *GREAT!*
ANTI-GRAV BALLET REQUIRES *STRENGTH* AND *ENDURANCE,* FATHER! TO KEEP IN *SHAPE* FOR *DANCE,* I WAS NAMED CAPTAIN OF OUR SCHOOL *FREEFALL FOOTBALL* TEAM!

AND MUCH TO *MOTHER'S CHAGRIN* I'VE GARNERED THE REPUTATION OF BEING THE *DIRTIEST PLAYER* IN THE *LEAGUE!*
HAHAHA! I SHOULD'VE *KNOWN!* YOU RE *ALL KAMISH,* BOY!

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF *TIME,* THE *KAMISH CLAN* HAS BEEN *RENOWNED* FOR BEING *DIRTY PLAYERS!*
THAT'S WHY WE *ALL LIVE* TO SUCH *RIPE OLD AGES!*
HAHA HAHA HA!
end

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL MEDALLION, FORGED FROM SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES! IT GLOWED BRIGHTLY AND HAD A JUDAS TREE ENGRAVED ON ITS SURFACE!
IT APPEARED ALMOST MAGICALLY, ONE MORNING, IN WINNER SNUBB'S CROWDED COMPARTMENT!
PAN-EARTH
THEY WON'T GET ME IN THE OUTER PLANETS! THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME THERE!
THE JUDAS MEDALLION, AS IT WAS CALLED, WAS A SYMBOL OF BETRAYAL! IT WAS A DEATH SENTENCE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNORS OF CHRIST! IV! IT MEANT THAT THE RECTIFIERS WERE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY...WITH STRICT ORDERS...TO KILL!
ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THE PLANET, IF ONE COULD SUCCESSFULLY ELUDE A RECTIFIER FOR SEVEN STRAIGHT DAYS, THE SENTENCE WOULD BE REVOKED! BUT ONLY TWO MEN HAD EVER EARNED THE RIGHT TO LIFE IN SUCH A MANNER!
DEPARTING
RECTIFIERS WERE THE PERSONAL MILITIA OF THE GOVERNORS! HALF-HUMAN, HALF-MECHANICAL, THEY WERE ASSASSINS CREATED IN THE LABORATORY FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF TAKING HUMAN LIFE! THEY WERE CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE HOLY MEN! TO KILL A RECTIFIER WAS THE MOST HEINOUS OF CRIMES!
WINNER KNEW, OF COURSE, WHY THE GOVERNORS WANTED HIM DEAD! HE HAD PROTESTED THEIR LATEST TAX REFORM BY REFUSING TO PAY HIS ANNUAL TRIBUTE! DISRESPECTFULNESS TO THE HIGH OVERLORDS OF THE SYSTEM SIMPLY COULD NOT GO UNPUNISHED!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN PLEASE ADJUST YOUR STABILIZERS! WE TOUCH DOWN IN 3.80 MILLI-MINUTES!
WINNER DIDN'T KNOW IF THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNORS EXTENDED TO THE LESSER PLANETS OF THE SYSTEM! BUT 3.80 MILLIMINUTES LATER, HE FOUND, MUCH TO HIS DISMAY...THAT IT DID!
HELLO MISTER SNUBBS!
N-NO! NOOOOO!
THE RECTIFIER WAS A PARTICULARLY NASTY FELLOW! THEY MUST HAVE PROGRAMMED MORE THAN THE USUAL AMOUNT OF AGRESSION INTO HIS BIOMECHANICAL BRAIN! EVEN THE SHIP'S PASSENGERS SEEMED IMPRESSED WITH HIS ENMITY AS THE SILENTLY WAITED FOR THE EXECUTION TO COMMENCE!
THE GOVERNORS SEND THEIR REGARDS, MR SNUBBS!
NOOOOO!

BLACKSTAR AND THE NIGHT HUNTRESS



BEING *UNFAMILIAR* WITH THE CUSTOM OF ANNOUNCING *PUBLIC EXECUTIONS*, ROWENA REACTED *INSTANTLY*...

AND *BLEW AWAY* THE RECTIFIER'S *FACE!*

SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE *DONE* IT. SHE *KNEW* IT THE INSTANT SHE SAW THE RECTIFIER *FLY APART!*

WARNING! WARNING! YOU HAVE *VIOLATED* THE *LAW!*

WHOOOOM!

IF THIS ROBOT IS *RIGHT*, ROWENA THEN WE'D BETTER *MAKE TRACKS*...OR WE'LL END UP LIKE THAT POOR GUY WHO WAS JUST *FRIED!*

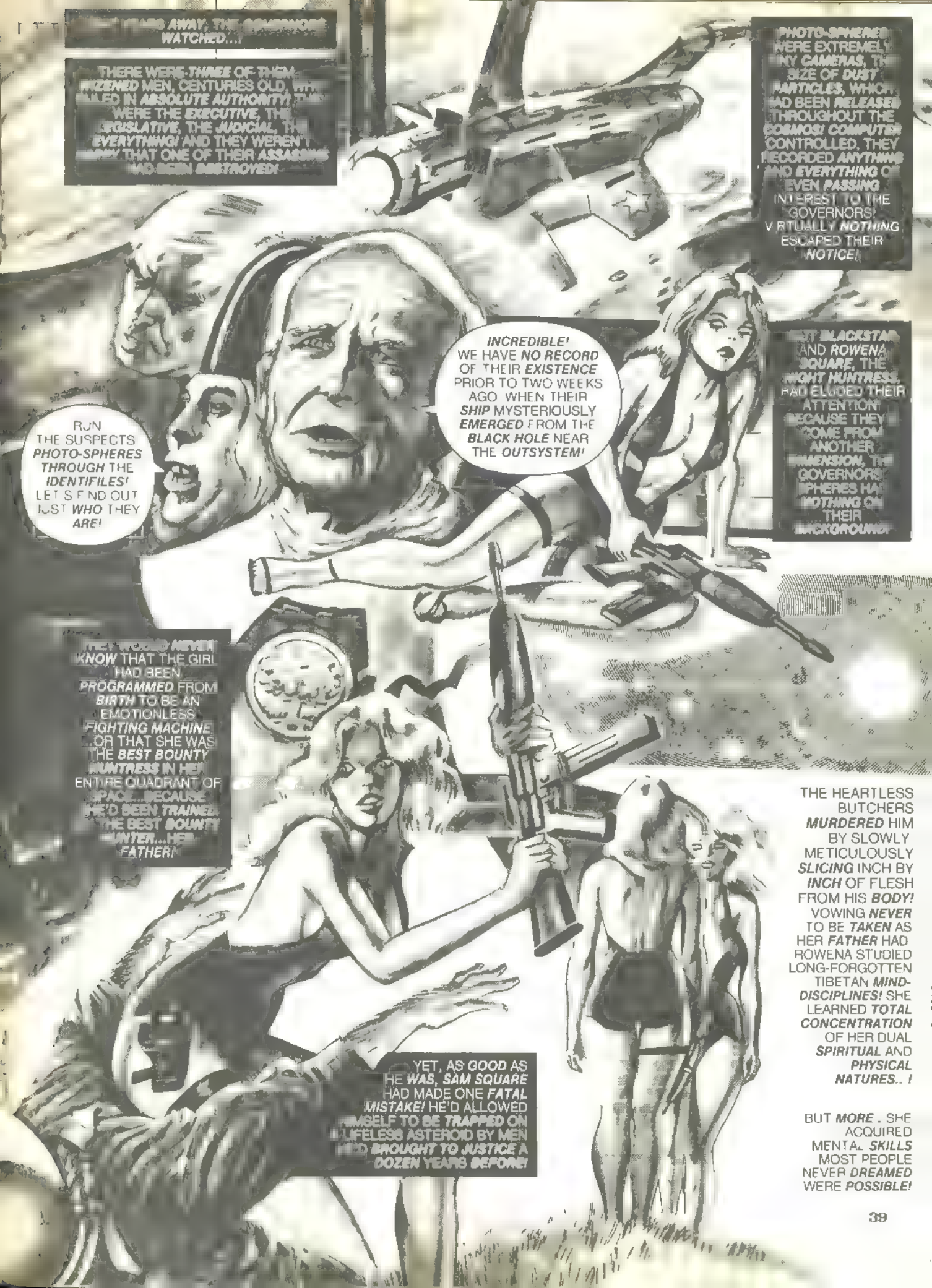
JASON BLACKSTAR WAS ROWENA'S MERCENARY *PILOT*. TOGETHER, THEY HAD *CRISS-CROSSED* THE *STARWAYS* IN SEARCH OF THE MOST *DANGEROUS LAW-BREAKERS! NOW*, WAS *THEY* WHO HAD BROKEN THE *LAW!* IT WAS A FEELING *NEITHER* OF THEM PARTICULARLY *RELISHED!*

RETRACTING THE *RAMP* SHOULD *HOLD* THEM *AWHILE!*

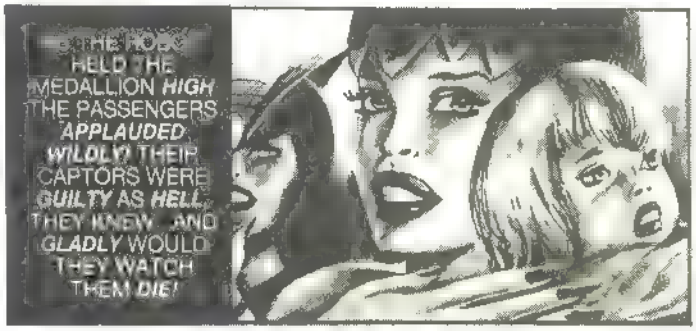
WAY *I* SEE IT WE DON'T HAVE MUCH *CHOICE*, JASON! WE'VE GOT TO *TAKE* THIS *STARLINER*...AND GET THE HELL *AWAY* FROM HERE!

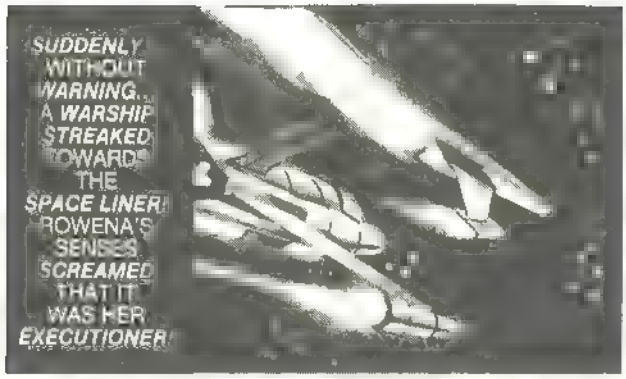
HIJACK A *STARLINER*, COMPLETE WITH *PASSENGERS!* ARE YOU *CRAZY?*

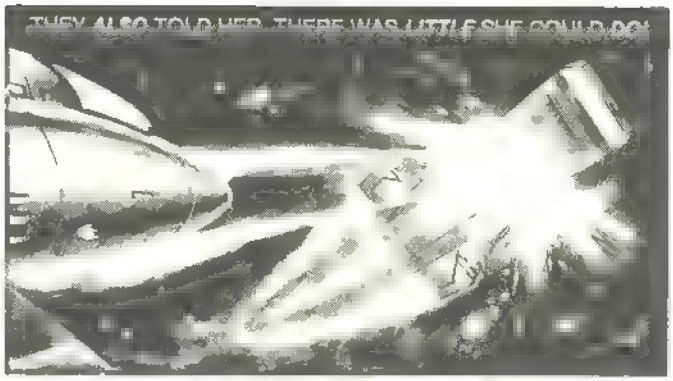
Author GERRY BOUDREAU/Illustrator PETER HSU


AWAY, THE GOVERNORS WATCHED....!
THERE WERE THREE OF THEM. WIZENED MEN, CENTURIES OLD, WHO RULED IN ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY! THEY WERE THE EXECUTIVE, THE LEGISLATIVE, THE JUDICIAL, THE EVERYTHING! AND THEY WEREN'T HAPPY THAT ONE OF THEIR ASSASSINS HAD BEEN DESTROYED!
PHOTO-SPHERES WERE EXTREMELY TINY CAMERAS, THE SIZE OF DUST PARTICLES, WHICH HAD BEEN RELEASED THROUGHOUT THE COSMOS! COMPUTER CONTROLLED, THEY RECORDED ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING OF EVEN PASSING INTEREST TO THE GOVERNORS! VIRTUALLY NOTHING ESCAPED THEIR NOTICE!
INCREDIBLE! WE HAVE NO RECORD OF THEIR EXISTENCE PRIOR TO TWO WEEKS AGO WHEN THEIR SHIP MYSTERIOUSLY EMERGED FROM THE BLACK HOLE NEAR THE OUTSYSTEM!
RUN THE SUSPECTS PHOTO-SPHERES THROUGH THE IDENTIFILES! LET'S FIND OUT JUST WHO THEY ARE!
BLACKSTAR AND ROWENA SQUARE, THE NIGHT HUNTRESS, HAD ELUDED THEIR ATTENTION BECAUSE THEY COME FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION, THE GOVERNORS' SPHERES HAD NOTHING ON THEIR BACKGROUND!
NEVER KNOW THAT THE GIRL HAD BEEN PROGRAMMED FROM BIRTH TO BE AN EMOTIONLESS FIGHTING MACHINE ...OR THAT SHE WAS THE BEST BOUNTY HUNTRESS IN HER ENTIRE QUADRANT OF SPACE...BECAUSE HE'D BEEN TRAINED THE BEST BOUNTY HUNTER...HER FATHER!
YET, AS GOOD AS HE WAS, SAM SQUARE HAD MADE ONE FATAL MISTAKE! HE'D ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE TRAPPED ON A LIFELESS ASTEROID BY MEN HE'D BROUGHT TO JUSTICE A DOZEN YEARS BEFORE!
THE HEARTLESS BUTCHERS MURDERED HIM BY SLOWLY METICULOUSLY SLICING INCH BY INCH OF FLESH FROM HIS BODY! VOWING NEVER TO BE TAKEN AS HER FATHER HAD ROWENA STUDIED LONG-FORGOTTEN TIBETAN MIND-DISCIPLINES! SHE LEARNED TOTAL CONCENTRATION OF HER DUAL SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL NATURES..!
BUT MORE. SHE ACQUIRED MENTAL SKILLS MOST PEOPLE NEVER DREAMED WERE POSSIBLE!

SUDDENLY...BEFORE THE STARTLED GIRL'S EYES, A STRANGE, GLISTENING MEDALLION APPEARED AND BECKONED HER. ALMOST MYSTICALLY! NOT KNOWING OF CHRISTI IV OR ITS MANICALLY DICTATORIAL GOVERNORS, ROWENA HAD NO IDEA WHAT IT WAS, YET SHE SENSED ITS OMINOUS MEANING!



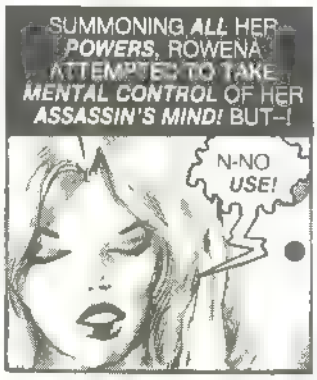

SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING... A WARSHIP STREAKED TOWARDS THE SPACE LINER! ROWENA'S SENSES SCREAMED THAT IT WAS HER EXECUTIONER!


THEY ALSO TOLD HER THERE WAS LITTLE SHE COULD DO!

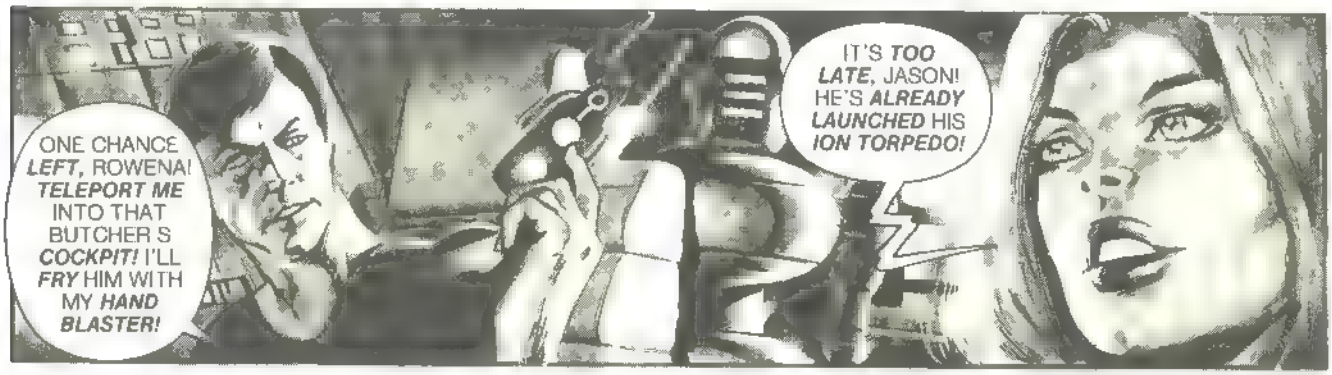
THE ASSASSIN'S FIRST PASS CRIPPLED THE LINER'S ENGINES! ITS SECOND, ROWENA KNEW WOULD BLOW THEM CLEAR ACROSS THE GALAXY!
GOD HELP US! WHAT KIND OF MADMAN IS HE KILLING INNOCENT PASSENGERS?

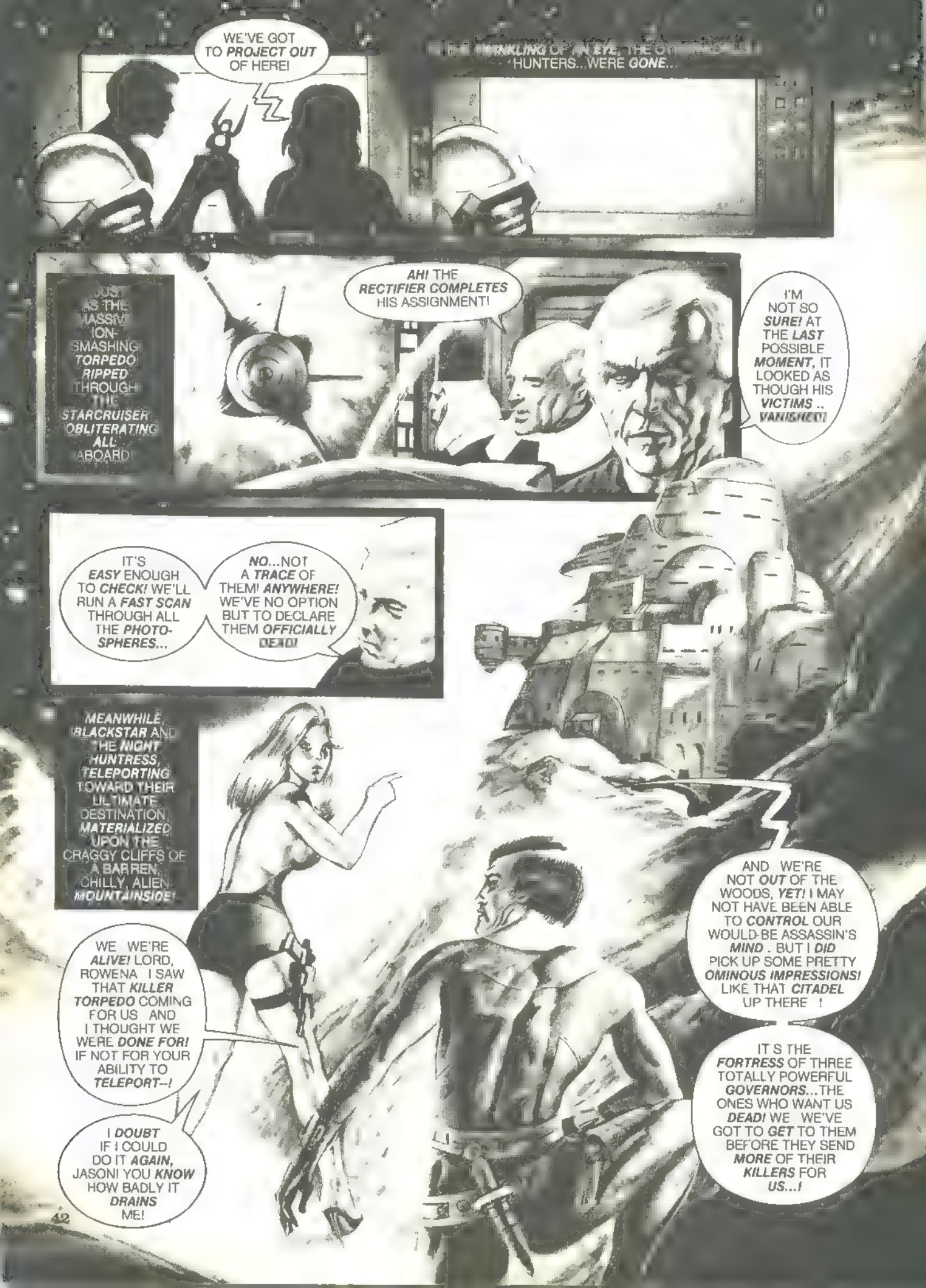
THOSE ARE HIS ORDERS! HE MUST NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY HOSTAGES...AND NEVER CAN HE SACRIFICE HIS MISSION TO PROTECT ONE!

THIS IS IT! WE RE DEAD, BABY! HE'S SWINGING AROUND TO MAKE A FINAL PASS!
MAYBE... I CAN STILL STOP HIM!


SUMMONING ALL HER POWERS, ROWENA ATTEMPTED TO TAKE MENTAL CONTROL OF HER ASSASSIN'S MIND! BUT--!
N-NO USE!

HIS MIND.. UNLIKE ANY I'VE EVER KNOWN!
HIS IS A BIOMECHANICAL BRAIN BEYOND THE CONTROL OF ANY SAVE THE GOVERNOR!


ONE CHANCE LEFT, ROWENA! TELEPORT ME INTO THAT BUTCHER S COCKPIT! I'LL FRY HIM WITH MY HAND BLASTER!
IT'S TOO LATE, JASON! HE'S ALREADY LAUNCHED HIS ION TORPEDO!


WE'VE GOT TO PROJECT OUT OF HERE!
HUNTERS...WERE GONE...
AS THE MASSIVE ION-SMASHING TORPEDO RIPPED THROUGH THE STARCRUISER OBLITERATING ALL ABOARD!
AH! THE RECTIFIER COMPLETES HIS ASSIGNMENT!
I'M NOT SO SURE! AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT, IT LOOKED AS THOUGH HIS VICTIMS .. VANISHED!
IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO CHECK! WE'LL RUN A FAST SCAN THROUGH ALL THE PHOTO-SPHERES...
NO...NOT A TRACE OF THEM! ANYWHERE! WE'VE NO OPTION BUT TO DECLARE THEM OFFICIALLY DEAD!
MEANWHILE, BLACKSTAR AND THE NIGHT HUNTRESS, TELEPORTING TOWARD THEIR ULTIMATE DESTINATION, MATERIALIZED UPON THE CRAGGY CLIFFS OF A BARREN, CHILLY, ALIEN MOUNTAINSIDE!
WE WE'RE ALIVE! LORD, ROWENA I SAW THAT KILLER TORPEDO COMING FOR US AND I THOUGHT WE WERE DONE FOR! IF NOT FOR YOUR ABILITY TO TELEPORT--!
I DOUBT IF I COULD DO IT AGAIN, JASON! YOU KNOW HOW BADLY IT DRAINS ME!
AND WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS, YET! I MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL OUR WOULD-BE ASSASSIN'S MIND . BUT I DID PICK UP SOME PRETTY OMINOUS IMPRESSIONS! LIKE THAT CITADEL UP THERE !
IT'S THE FORTRESS OF THREE TOTALLY POWERFUL GOVERNORS...THE ONES WHO WANT US DEAD! WE WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THEM BEFORE THEY SEND MORE OF THEIR KILLERS FOR US...!

LOOK! THE PHOTO-SPHERES HAVE PICKED THEM UP AGAIN! THEY THEY'RE HERE, AT OUR FORTRESS!
INGENIOUS! NO OTHER CONDEMNED SUBJECTS HAVE EVER BEEN SO CLEVER OR SO BOLD! I ADMIRE THEM YET, WE CANNOT CONCEDE AMNESTY WITHOUT A PROPER BATTLE!
UH OH, LOVER! YOU GET THE FEELING THE GOVERNORS KNOW WE'RE HERE?
FOR A MOMENT, FACING THE RECTIFIER'S WEAPONS, ROWENA WAS PROPERLY STUNNED!
SHE RECOVERED HER COMPOSURE NICELY HOWEVER, BY MUSTERING HER REMAINING STRENGTH...
WHA--!
THEY THEY'RE GONE! BUT HOW?
LET'S DO IT JASON!
...AND TELEPORTING BEHIND HER ATTACKERS' BACKS!
BLACKSTAR AND THE NIGHT HUNTRESS WERE UPON THEIR ASSAILANTS INSTANTLY AND MERCILESSLY! THEIR YEARS OF HUNTING CRIMINALS TOGETHER HAD HONED THEIR ABILITIES TO A RAZOR EDGE! THAT, COUPLED WITH THE ELEMENT OF TOTAL SURPRISE HELPED THEM TO FINISH THE BIOMECHANICAL ASSASSINS ALMOST BEFORE THEY'D REALIZED THEY WERE BEING ATTACKED!
IF YOU'RE ASKING WHY WE DON'T JUST TELEPORT OUT OF HERE YOU CAN FORGET IT JASON! I'M ALL TELEPORTED OUT! IF WE DON'T SEE THIS THROUGH, THEY'LL HUNT US DOWN WHEREVER WE GO
WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET IT OVER WITH!
I WONDER HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF THESE PUG-UGLIES YOUR GOVERNORS ARE GOING TO SEND AFTER US?
YOU, UH DON'T REALLY THINK IT'S NECESSARY THAT WE TAKE THEM ALL ON, DO YOU LOVE?

THE MANHUNTERS *CAUTIOUSLY* ENTERED THE *FORTRESS*...WITH ROWENA'S SUPER SENSES *SCREAMING* OF ALL-OUT *DANGER!*

WATCH IT JASON! *ASSASSIN* BEHIND THIS *DOOR!*

THE RECTIFIER WAS *FAST!* BUT *SO* WAS THE PRETTY HUNTRESS SHE LASHED OUT WITH FIERY *MIND BLAST!*

...THAT *TORE OFF* THE TOP OF THE CREATURE'S *SKULL!*

IT IT'S STILL *ALIVE!*

TO BION'S BRAIN *SMOLDERING*, THE ASSASSIN *RAN SCREAMING!* WHEN THE *GOVERNORS* STARED INTO THE CRAZED EYES OF THE RECTIFIER THEY SAW ONLY *INSTANT* AND *UNAVOIDABLE DEATH!*

JASON! IT'S GONE *BERZERK!* IT'S HEADING FOR THE *GOVERNORS!*

N-NO! NOOOOOO!

A *HEARTBEAT* LATER...THEY WERE ETERNALLY *GRATEFUL* THAT THE *DEATH* THEY'D FORESEEN WASN'T THEIR *OWN!*

BAM!

AIEEE!

YOU YOU'VE SAVED OUR *LIVES!*

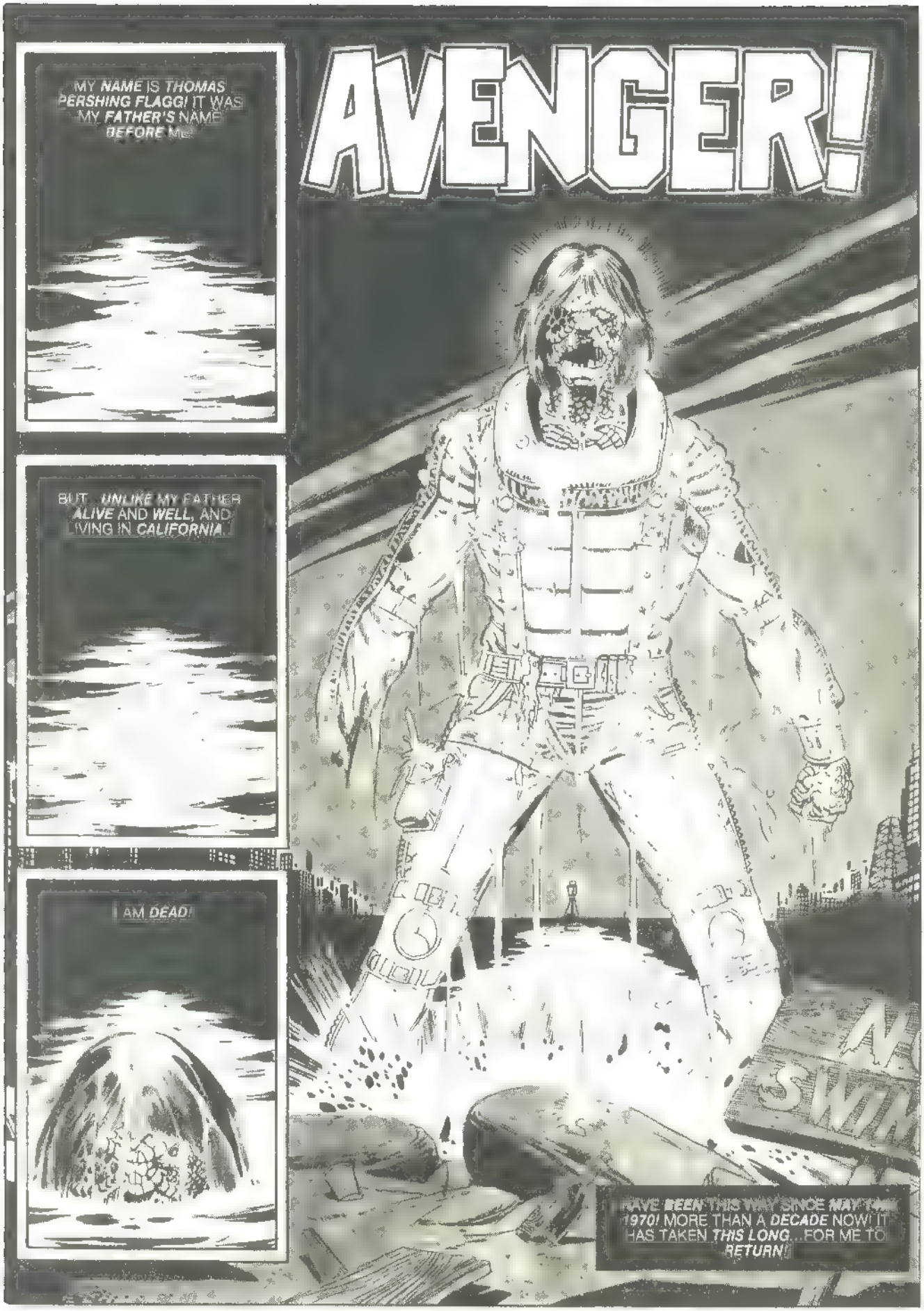
CAN IT, FRIEND! WE ONLY WANT *YOU* TO *CALL OFF* YOUR *ASSASSINS* OR WE'LL *FINISH* THIS *HERE* AND *NOW!*

WE TAKE BACK THE *MEDALLION GLADLY!* YOUR *INNOCENCE* IS *PROVED!*

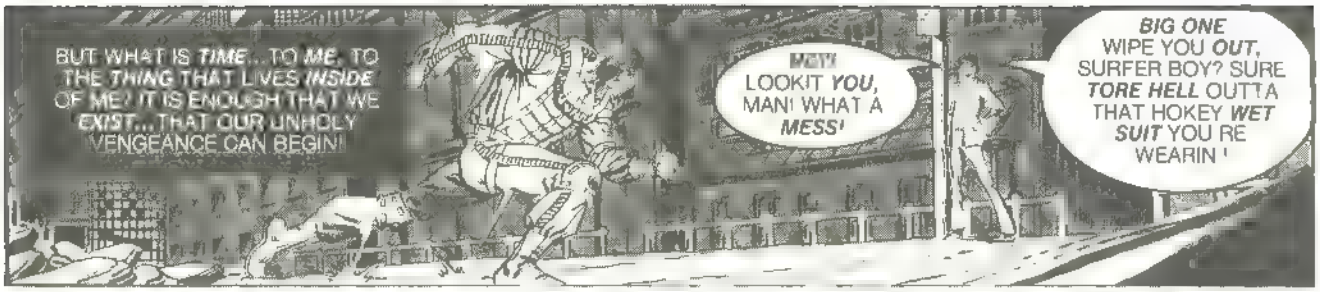
BUT... PERHAPS YOU COULD *TEACH US* SOME OF YOUR *TECHNIQUES*... THEY WOULD MAKE OUR *RECTIFIERS* ALL THE MORE *LETHAL!*

I DON'T *BELIEVE* IT !

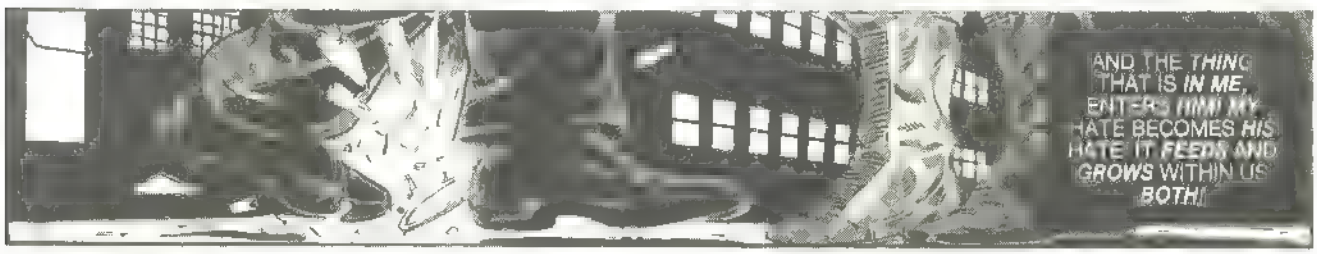
JASON GET ME *OUT* OF HERE BEFORE I *DO* SOMETHING THAT *HE'LL REGRET!*



Author **ARCHIE GOODWIN**/Illustrator **JIM STARLIN**

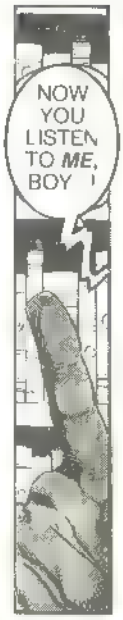


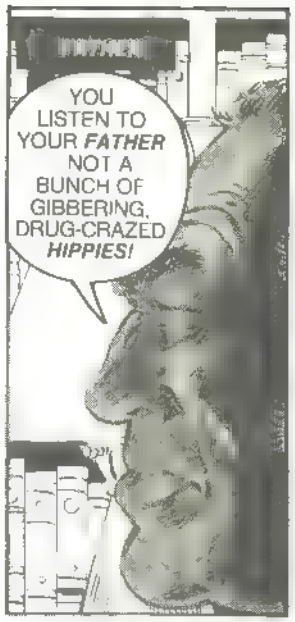
THE SHARP SPLINTERED RADIUS BONE OF MY RIGHT ARM PLUNGES LIKE A DAGGER . STRAIGHT FOR HIS RACING HEART!

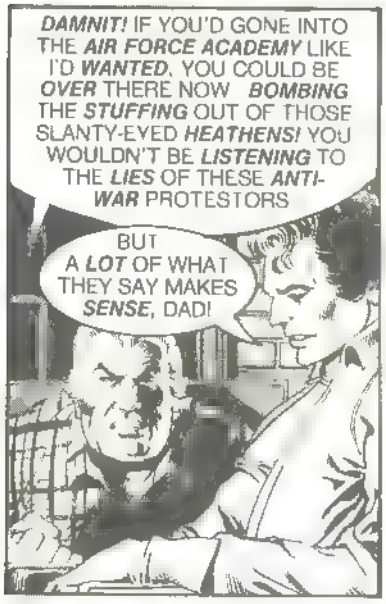


THEN...IT IS OVER! HE FALLS... LIFELESS! BUT I KNOW IT IS ONLY MOMENTARY! SOON, HE WILL RISE AND WALK BY MY SIDE! AND, IN TIME, THERE WILL BE MANY MORE OF US!

IN TIME... THERE WILL EVEN BE

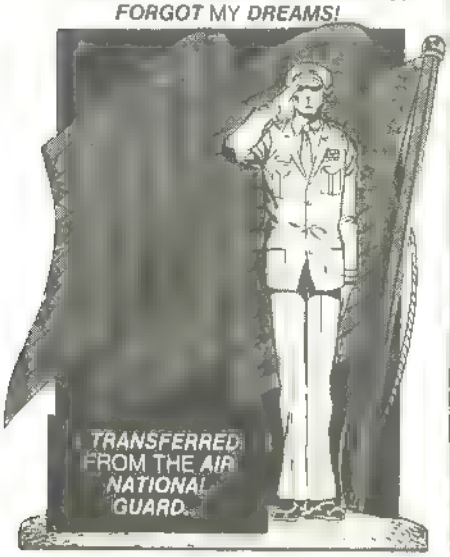

NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME, BOY!


YOU LISTEN TO YOUR FATHER NOT A BUNCH OF GIBBERING, DRUG-CRAZED HIPPIES!

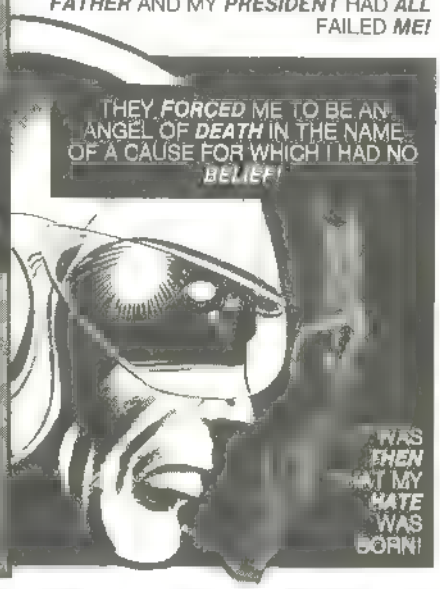

DAMNIT! IF YOU'D GONE INTO THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY LIKE I'D WANTED, YOU COULD BE OVER THERE NOW BOMBING THE STUFFING OUT OF THOSE SLANTY-EYED HEATHENS! YOU WOULDN'T BE LISTENING TO THE LIES OF THESE ANTI-WAR PROTESTORS
BUT A LOT OF WHAT THEY SAY MAKES SENSE, DAD!

MORE SENSE THAN WHAT YOUR OWN FATHER TELLS YOU OR YOUR OWN PRESIDENT? BULL! OUR FAMILY HAS NEVER FAILED THIS COUNTRY! YOU DON'T WANT TO BE THE FIRST FLAGG WHO TURNS COWARD!

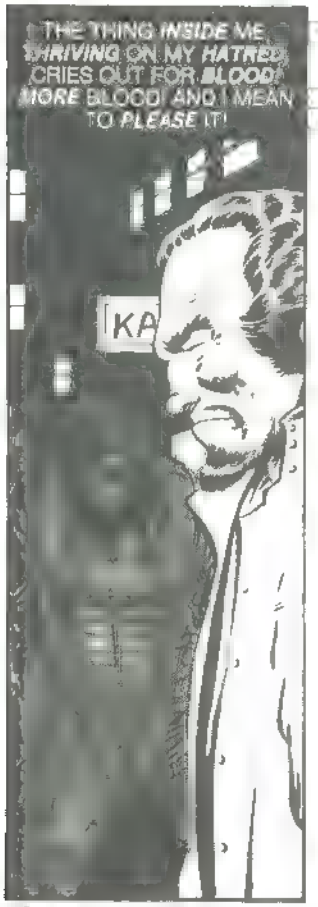
YOU GOT A TRADITION TO LIVE UP TO SON! AND NOW'S THE TIME TO ANSWER THE CALL OF YOUR COUNTRY!
I'LL TRY, DAD!

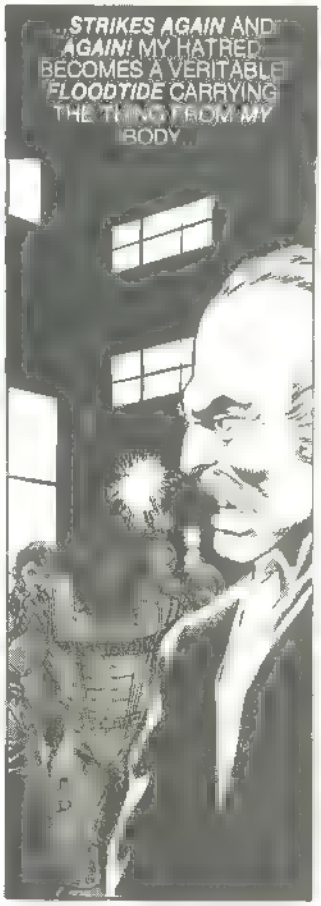

TO AVOID FAILING MY COUNTRY, MY FATHER, AND MY PRESIDENT...I PUT ASIDE MY STUDIES! I TEMPORARILY FORGOT MY DREAMS!
TRANSFERRED FROM THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD...

WHERE, IN NAPALMING CIVILIANS AND DEFOLIATING THEIR ONCE FERTILE LAND...
VOLUNTEERED FOR ACTIVE DUTY IN VIETNAM...


. I FOUND THAT MY COUNTRY, MY FATHER AND MY PRESIDENT HAD ALL FAILED ME!
THEY FORCED ME TO BE AN ANGEL OF DEATH IN THE NAME OF A CAUSE FOR WHICH I HAD NO BELIEF!
IT WAS THEN THAT MY HATE WAS BORN!

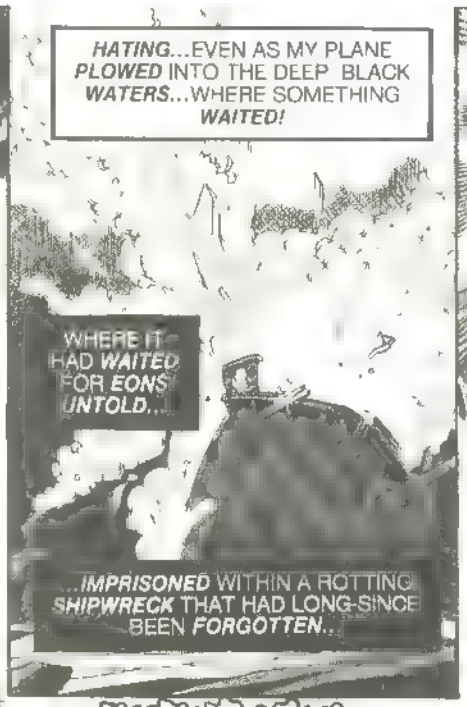
BUT WHERE ONCE I WAS *ALONE* WITH MY HATE NOW *ANOTHER SHARES* IT AND *JOINS* ME IN MY *VENGEANCE!*

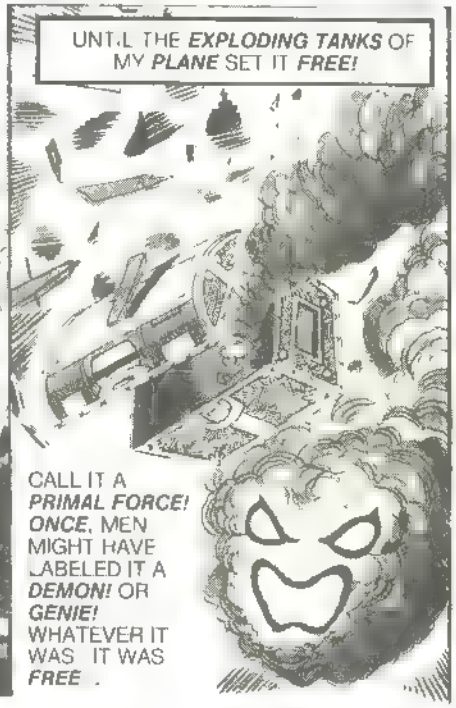


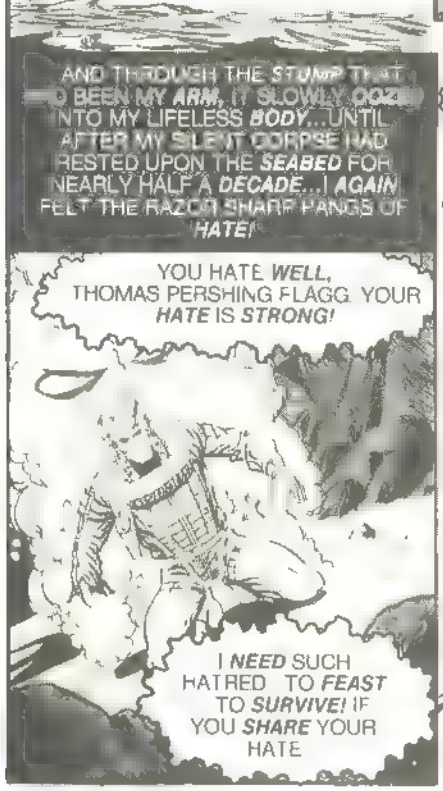


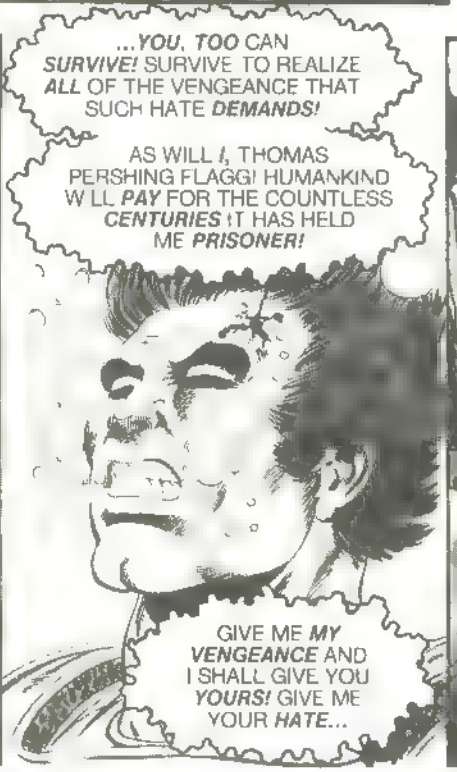
UNTIL WE ARE AN ARMY!
AN ARMY READY TO MARCH...TO DO WHAT I HAVE DREAMED OF SINCE THAT TERRIBLE DAY IN 1970...

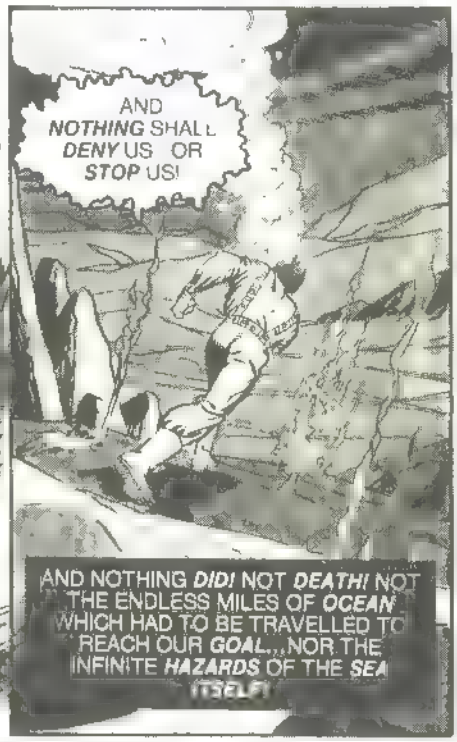
THE DAY I DIED ...DOWNED BY A SAM MISSILE!
I STILL REMEMBER HOW MY PLANE PLUNGED, IN FLAME TOWARD THE SOUTH CHINA SEA HOW I HATED EVERYONE...
.EVERYONE WHO HAD SENT ME HERE TO KILL.. AND TO DIE!

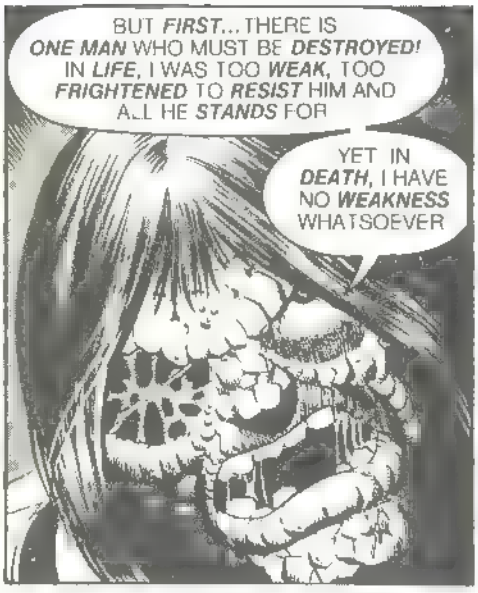

HATING...EVEN AS MY PLANE PLOWED INTO THE DEEP BLACK WATERS...WHERE SOMETHING WAITED!
WHERE IT HAD WAITED FOR EONS UNTOLD...
...IMPRISONED WITHIN A ROTTING SHIPWRECK THAT HAD LONG-SINCE BEEN FORGOTTEN...


UNTIL THE EXPLODING TANKS OF MY PLANE SET IT FREE!
CALL IT A PRIMAL FORCE! ONCE, MEN MIGHT HAVE LABELED IT A DEMON! OR GENIE! WHATEVER IT WAS IT WAS FREE .

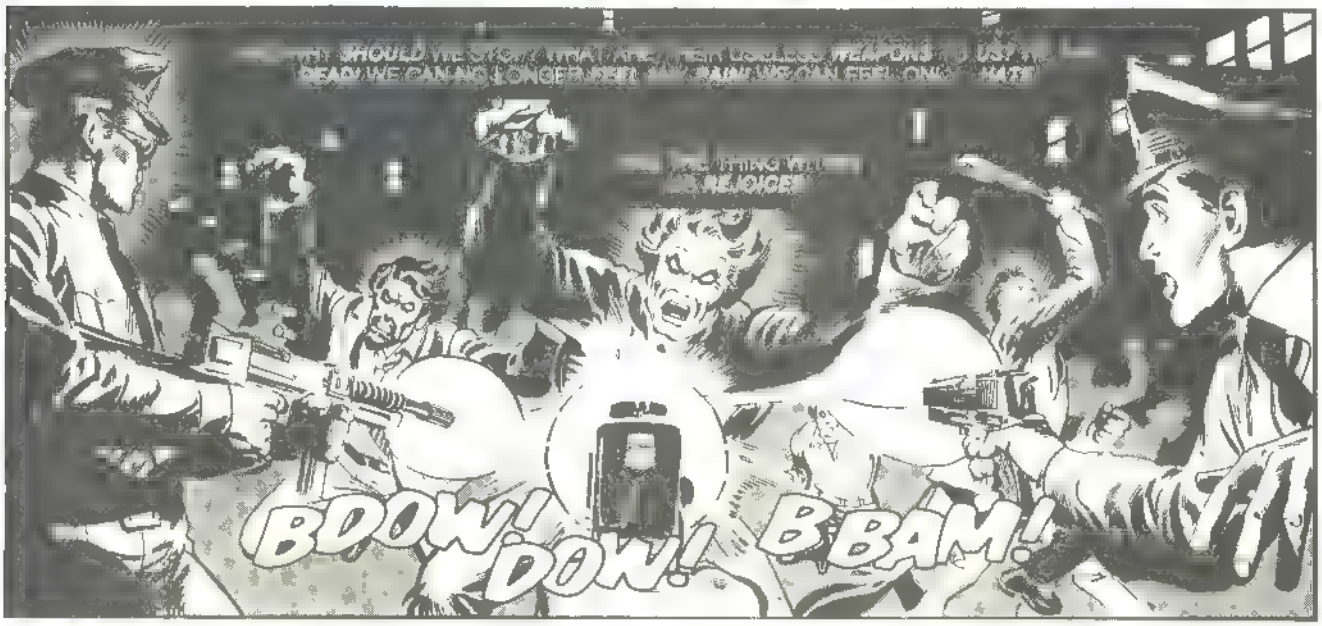

AND THROUGH THE STUMP THAT WAS BEEN MY ARM, IT SLOWLY OOZED INTO MY LIFELESS BODY...UNTIL AFTER MY SILENT CORPSE HAD RESTED UPON THE SEABED FOR NEARLY HALF A DECADE...I AGAIN FELT THE RAZOR SHARP FANGS OF HATE!
YOU HATE WELL, THOMAS PERSHING FLAGG. YOUR HATE IS STRONG!
I NEED SUCH HATRED TO FEAST TO SURVIVE! IF YOU SHARE YOUR HATE


...YOU, TOO CAN SURVIVE! SURVIVE TO REALIZE ALL OF THE VENGEANCE THAT SUCH HATE DEMANDS!
AS WILL I, THOMAS PERSHING FLAGG! HUMANKIND WILL PAY FOR THE COUNTLESS CENTURIES IT HAS HELD ME PRISONER!
GIVE ME MY VENGEANCE AND I SHALL GIVE YOU YOURS! GIVE ME YOUR HATE...

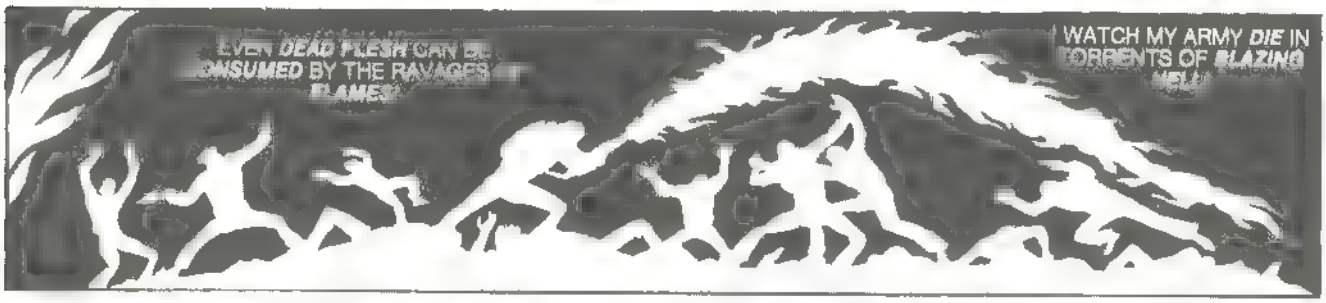

AND NOTHING SHALL DENY US OR STOP US!
AND NOTHING DID! NOT DEATH! NOT THE ENDLESS MILES OF OCEAN WHICH HAD TO BE TRAVELLED TO REACH OUR GOAL...NOR THE INFINITE HAZARDS OF THE SEA ITSELF!



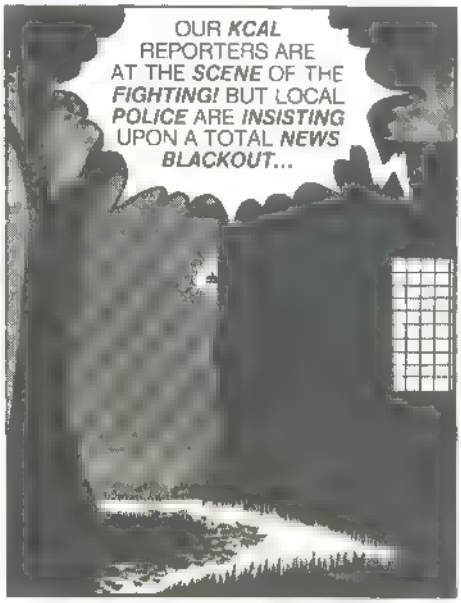
AND MY ARMY BEGINS ITS *MARCH . !*



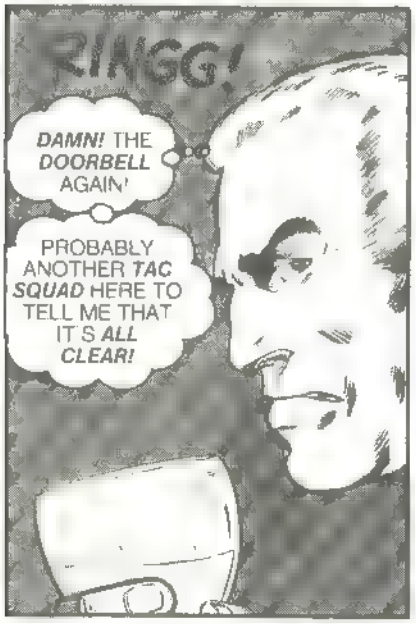
BUT INEVITABLY... THE REINFORCEMENTS COME!
REINFORCEMENTS WITH FLAME-THROWERS!


EVEN DEAD FLESH CAN BE CONSUMED BY THE RAVAGES OF FLAME!
WATCH MY ARMY DIE IN TORRENTS OF BLAZING HELL!

OH GOD! GOD HELP US! THINK IT'S FINALLY OVER!


OUR KCAL REPORTERS ARE AT THE SCENE OF THE FIGHTING! BUT LOCAL POLICE ARE INSISTING UPON A TOTAL NEWS BLACKOUT...

UNTIL A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION CAN BE MADE INTO THIS MOST DISTRESSING PHENOMENON!
RINNNG!


RINGG!
DAMN! THE DOORBELL AGAIN!
PROBABLY ANOTHER TAC SQUAD HERE TO TELL ME THAT IT'S ALL CLEAR!

HOLD ON! I'M COMING!

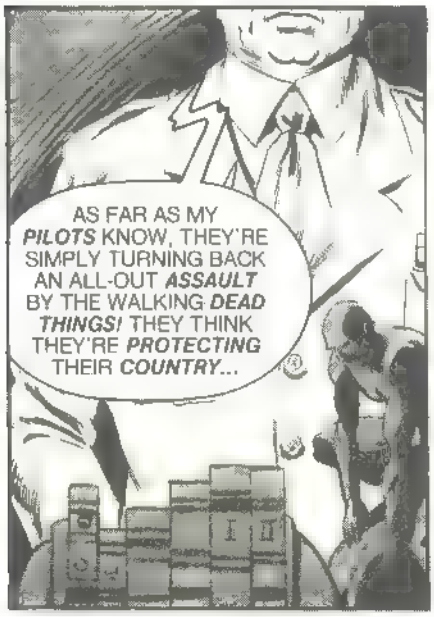
WHY CAN'T YOU PEOPLE GET TOGETHER ON

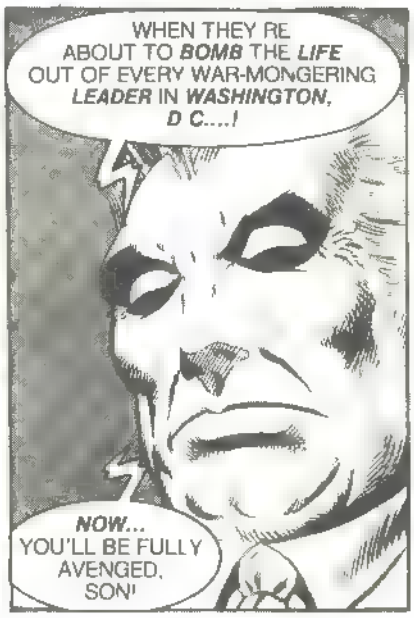
TH-THIS THING--?

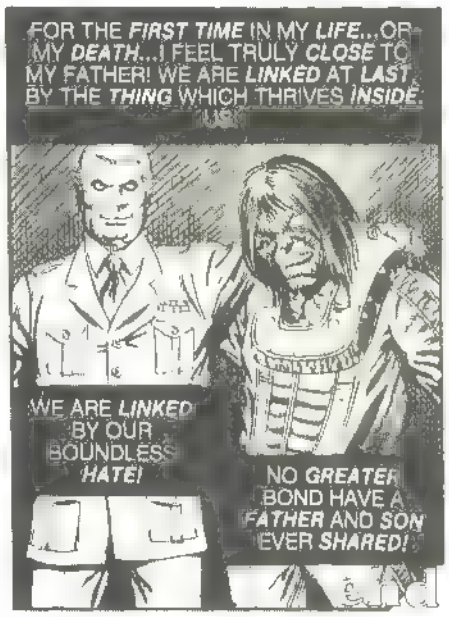
HELLO, DAD!

Y-YES, GENERAL! WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT THE EMERGENCY IN YOUR AREA. BUT--!
BUT NOTHING, SOLDIER! YOU DAMN WELL BETTER HIT THOSE COORDINATES I GAVE YOU OR I'LL HAVE YOU BEFORE A BOARD OF INQUIRY!
AM I THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THIS S.A.C. UNIT OR NOT!?
Y-YOU ARE, SIR!

THAT'S IT! IN A MATTER OF MINUTES A FLIGHT OF FIGHTER-BOMBERS WILL MAKE THE STRIKE!


AS FAR AS MY PILOTS KNOW, THEY'RE SIMPLY TURNING BACK AN ALL-OUT ASSAULT BY THE WALKING DEAD THINGS! THEY THINK THEY'RE PROTECTING THEIR COUNTRY...


WHEN THEY RE ABOUT TO BOMB THE LIFE OUT OF EVERY WAR-MONGERING LEADER IN WASHINGTON, D C....!
NOW... YOU'LL BE FULLY AVENGED, SON!


FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...OR MY DEATH...I FEEL TRULY CLOSE TO MY FATHER! WE ARE LINKED AT LAST BY THE THING WHICH THRIVES INSIDE.
WE ARE LINKED BY OUR BOUNDLESS HATE!
NO GREATER BOND HAVE A FATHER AND SON EVER SHARED!

HAGGARTH

ONCE, HE HAD BEEN A *DIFFERENT* MAN...A SIMPLE *WOODCUTTER*, IGNORANT OF THE WAYS OF A *DECEPTIVE WORLD!* YET, THROUGH *WITCHCRAFT*, THAT INNOCENCE HAD BEEN *LOST*...WHEN THE NAIVE WOODCUTTER HAD BEEN GIVEN THE *FACE* AND *SOUL* OF A DEAD WARRIOR, NAMED... *HAGGARTH!*

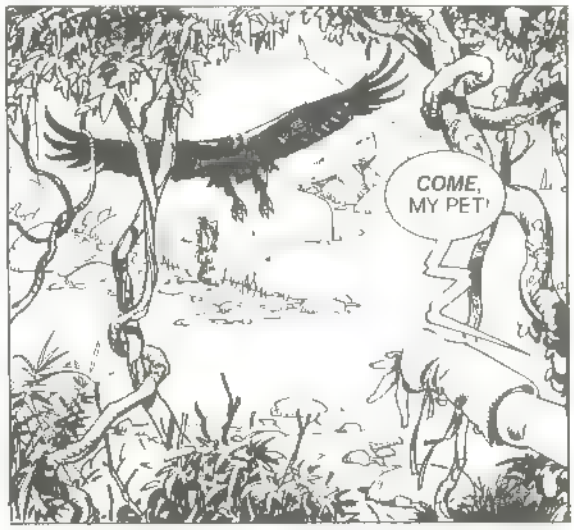
NOW...HE RODE THROUGH *MYSTIC LANDS*, SEEKING BOTH *REASON* AND *PURPOSE* FOR HIS CONFLICTING AND CONFUSING *DUAL NATURES!*

Author and Illustrator: **VICTOR de la FUENTE**

AGHHH! CRAZY BIRD! IT ALMOST KILLED ME!

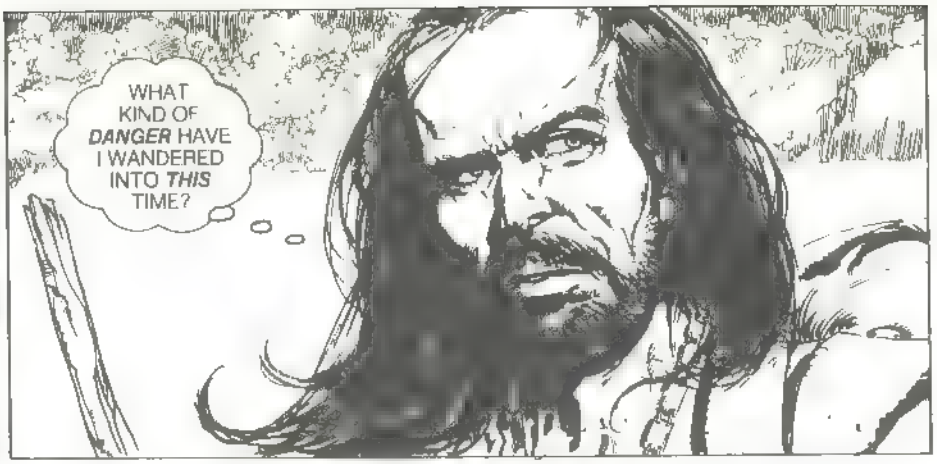
DAMN! THE FALL HAS CRUSHED MY HORSE'S LEG!
I'M SORRY, MY FRIEND, I'LL HAVE TO RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR MISERY! I CAN'T JUST LET YOU LIE THERE SUFFERING!

I WONDER WHAT POSSESSED THAT EAGLE TO SWOOP AT ME! THEY DON'T USUALLY ATTACK PEOPLE! GUESS I'LL NEVER KNOW!

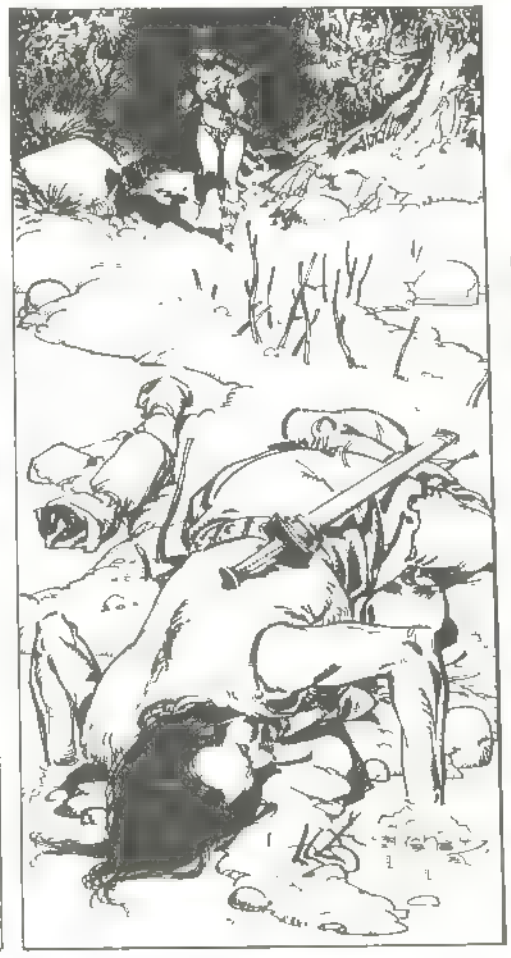

COME, MY PET!

I AM VERY DISPLEASED WITH YOU, GOOR! YOU DIDN'T COMPLETE THE TASK I SENT YOU TO DO!

FUNNY... IT S AWFULLY QUIET! TOO QUIET! THE JUNGLE IS USUALLY ALIVE WITH ANIMAL SOUNDS! NOW IT SEEMS ALMOST .. DEAD!


WHAT KIND OF DANGER HAVE I WANDERED INTO THIS TIME?

UGHNNN!



THAT THAT GIRL--! SHE S COMING FOR ME! SHE SHE S GOING TO--!

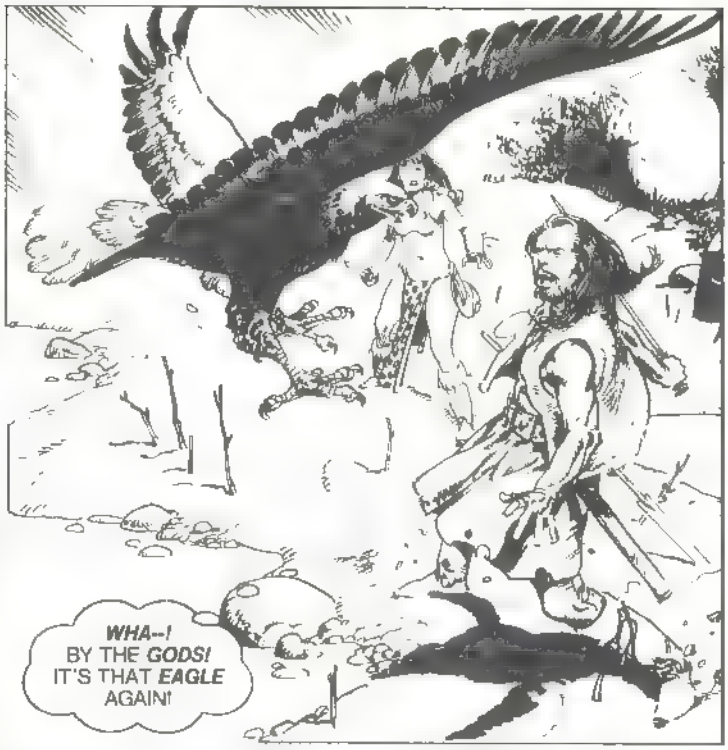
NO! WAIT! PLEASE...!

IGNORING THE MAN'S PLEA, THE SAVAGE-LOOKING GIRL HURLED HER POISON-DIPPED WEAPON!

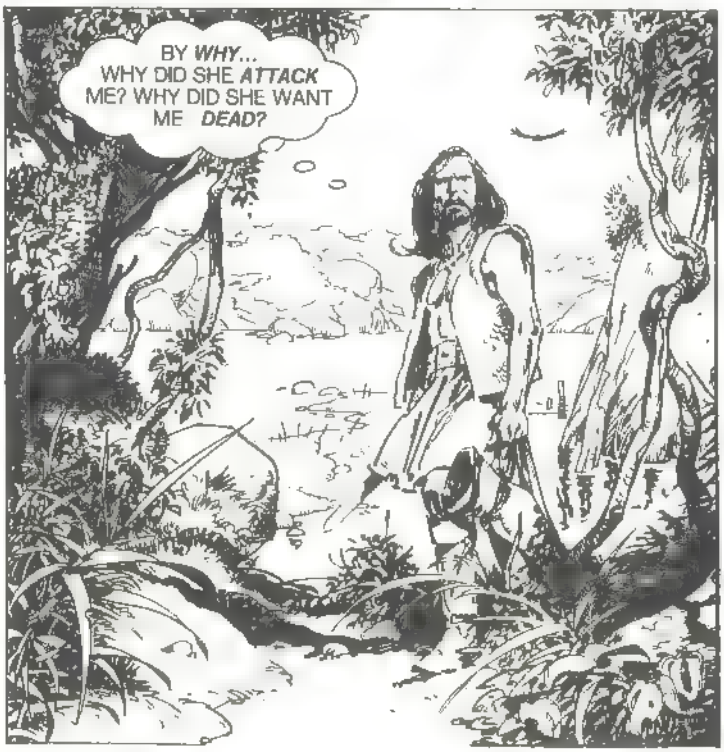
THE SPEAR PLUNGING FOR HIS HEART...HAGGARTH LUNGED DESPERATELY OUT OF ITS WAY...!
COLD SHIVERS RAN ALONG HIS SPINE AS HE FELT THE KILLER IRON GLIDE OMINOUSLY AGAINST HIS RIBS--!

WHAT THE HELL S THE MATTER WITH YOU? YOU COULD'VE KILLED ME! I'VE DONE YOU NO HARM!

IF IT'S A *FIGHT* YOU WANT, MY LITTLE TIGRESS, THEN *COME!* SHOW ME YOUR SHARP LITTLE *CLAWS*...AND I'LL WHIP YOUR BLOOD-THIRSTY *TAIL* OFF!
GOOR! COME! KILL!


WHA--! BY THE *GODS!* IT'S THAT *EAGLE* AGAIN!

SHE SHE'S *RUNNING OFF!* AND SO IS HER *KILLER*


BY *WHY*... WHY DID SHE *ATTACK* ME? WHY DID SHE WANT ME *DEAD?*

NOT *FAR* FROM THE CONFUSED *HAGGARTH*, A PAIR OF QUESTIONING EYES *WATCHED* AS THE EAGLE TOOK TO *WING*. .!
WHEN YOU RE FINISHED *DAY DREAMING*, I'D APPRECIATE IT *IMMENSELY* IF YOU GAVE ME A *HAND* WITH THIS BLASTED *BOAT!*

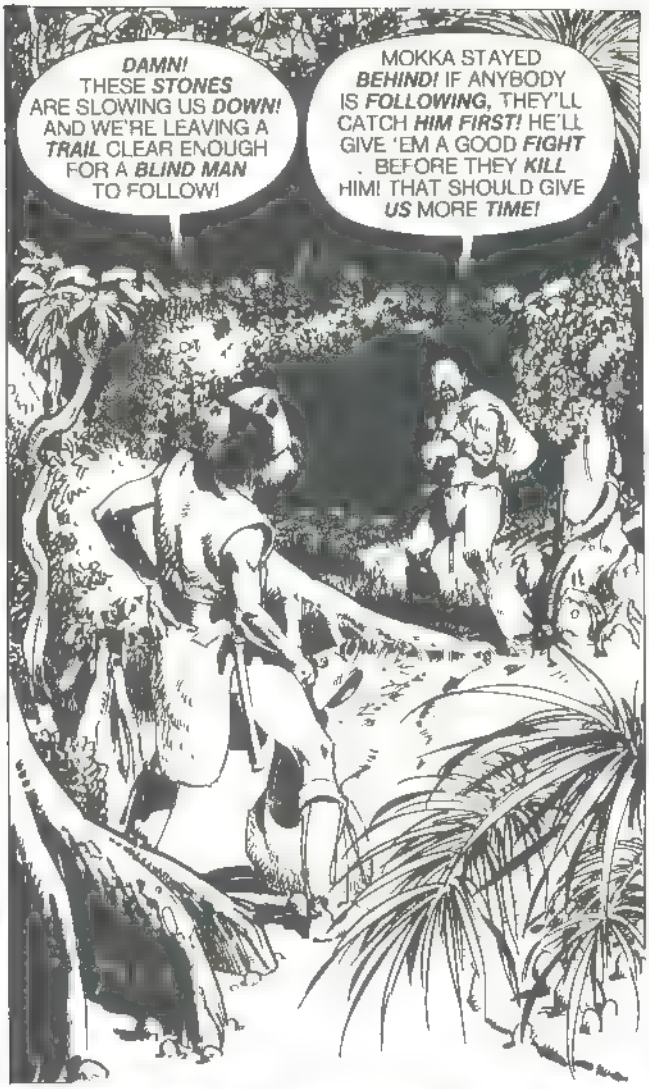
Q-Q *QUICK!* R-R *RUN!* TH TH THERE S AN E E *EAGLE!*

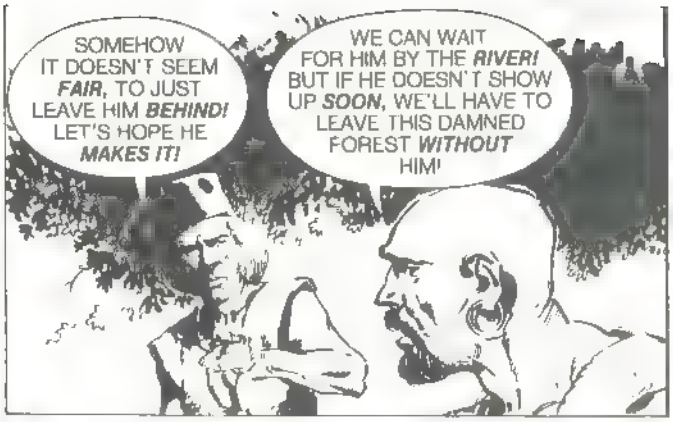
FORGET THE DAMN *EAGLE!* GET YOUR BIG UGLY HIDE *OVER* HERE AND *HELP* ME!

Q-Q-*QUICK!* TH TH THE *CANOE–!*
NOW WHAT ARE YOU *BABBLING* ABOUT?
DROP THE CANOE INTO THE *RIVER!* DO YOU *UNDERSTAND* THAT? INTO THE *RIVER!*

WHAT THE DEVIL'S THE *MATTER* WITH YOU? GET YOUR FILTHY PAWS *OFF* OF ME YOU BIG *LUMMOX* OR I'LL TEAR YOUR RETARDED *HEART* OUT!
B-B-BUT . *LOOK!*

AND...NOT FAR FROM THEM...THREE NERVOUS MEN CHIPPED FITULLY AT A VERITABLE TREASURE TROVE OF PRECIOUS STONES...!
JUST THINK! THESE KANTHAR STONES HAVE BEEN LAYING HERE FOR CENTURIES AND NO ONE'S EVER EVEN REALIZED IT!
UH OH! WE'VE GOT TROUBLE!
IT'S ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE DAMNED BIRDS!
WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE! WE DON'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT WITH THESE ROCKS!
COME ON, MOKKA! RUN! IF THEY FIND YOU YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!
NO! YOU GO! I I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU AT THE RIVER!
THE FOOLS! THEY CAN GO...
. BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO LEAVE SUCH WEALTH. WHEN IT'S JUST LYING HERE FOR THE TAKING! NO MATTER WHAT THE DANGERS!
BESIDES...ONE CLEVER AND QUIET MAN STANDS A LOT BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING OUT OF THIS HELL HOLE ALIVE, THAN TWO DIM-WITTED BRAYING ASSES!

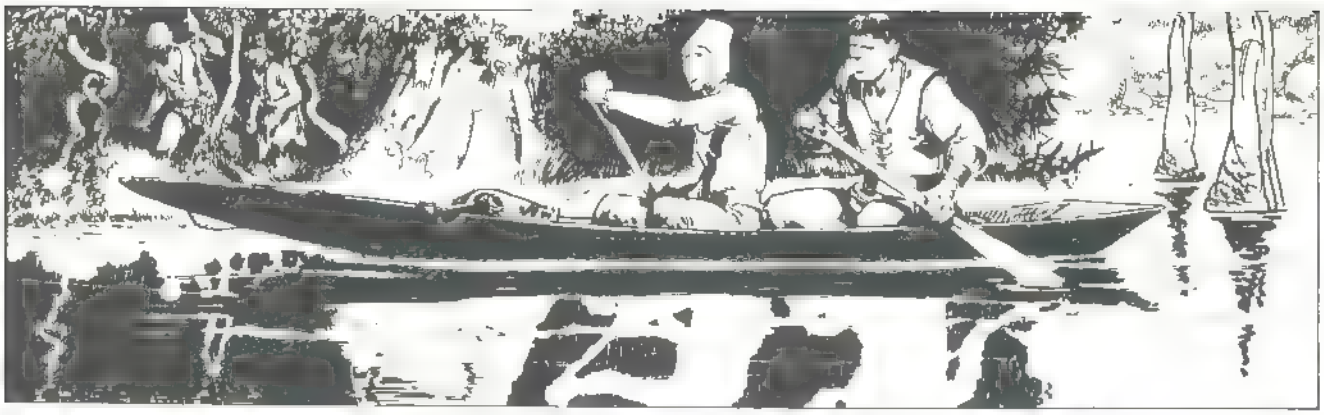

DAMN! THESE STONES ARE SLOWING US DOWN! AND WE'RE LEAVING A TRAIL CLEAR ENOUGH FOR A BLIND MAN TO FOLLOW!
MOKKA STAYED BEHIND! IF ANYBODY IS FOLLOWING, THEY'LL CATCH HIM FIRST! HE'LL GIVE 'EM A GOOD FIGHT . BEFORE THEY KILL HIM! THAT SHOULD GIVE US MORE TIME!


SOMEHOW IT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR, TO JUST LEAVE HIM BEHIND! LET'S HOPE HE MAKES IT!
WE CAN WAIT FOR HIM BY THE RIVER! BUT IF HE DOESN'T SHOW UP SOON, WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THIS DAMNED FOREST WITHOUT HIM!

LISTEN! THAT NOISE–! IT S COMING FROM THE RIVER!
WE WE'RE TRAPPED! THEY FOUND OUR CANOE!

HIDE! DON'T MAKE A SOUND!

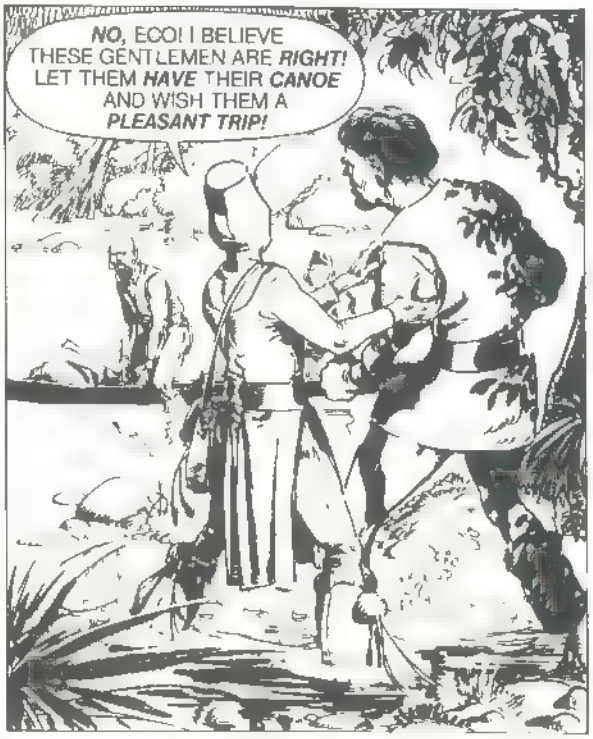
LOOK!

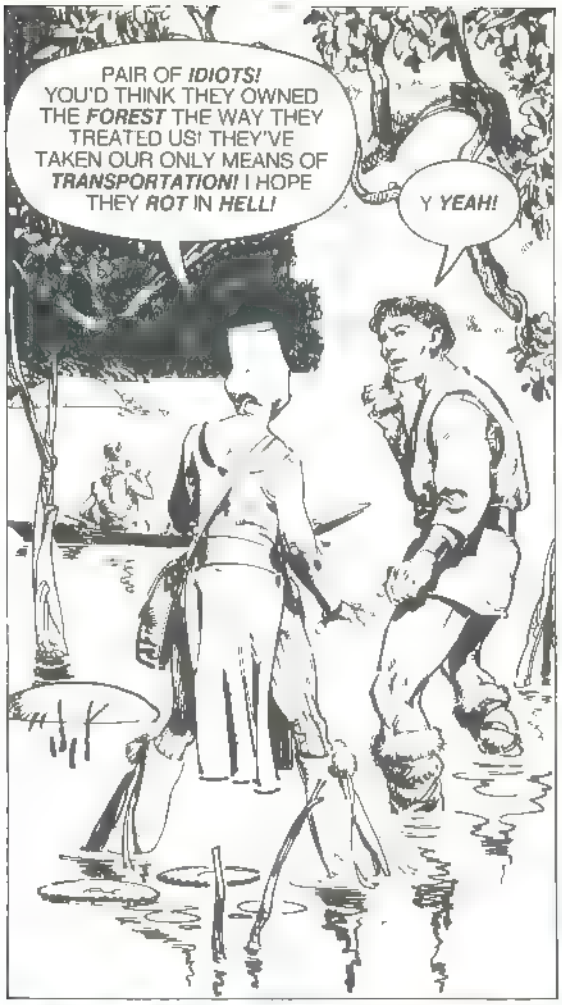


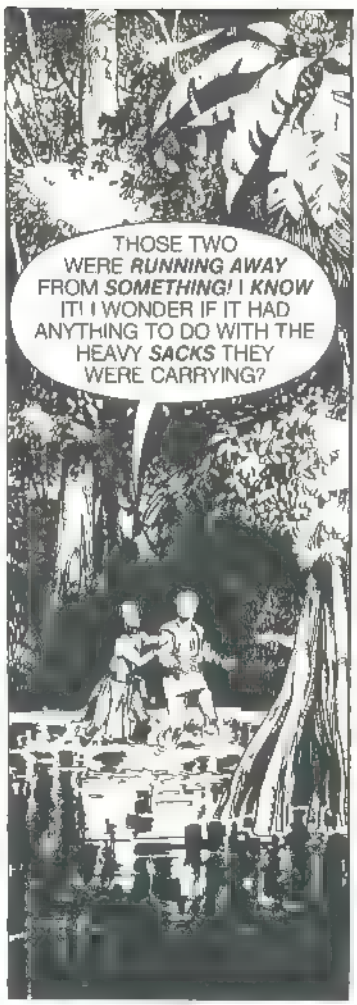
HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TAKING THAT CANOE?
HUH!?
WHAT THE HELL?

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA STEALING OUR DUGOUT? I OUGHT TO TEAR YOUR THIEVING HEARTS OUT!
SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT THIS TRIP HAS STARTED OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT!
WE WE DIDN'T KNOW THIS BOAT BELONGED TO ANYBODY! IT IT LOOKED LIKE IT JUST WASHED ASHORE!

WELL IT'S OURS! AND WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF GIVING IT UP TO THE LIKES OF YOU!


NO, ECO! I BELIEVE THESE GENTLEMEN ARE RIGHT! LET THEM HAVE THEIR CANOE AND WISH THEM A PLEASANT TRIP!


PAIR OF *IDIOTS!* YOU'D THINK THEY OWNED THE *FOREST* THE WAY THEY TREATED US! THEY'VE TAKEN OUR ONLY MEANS OF *TRANSPORTATION!* I HOPE THEY *ROT* IN *HELL!*
Y *YEAH!*


THOSE TWO WERE *RUNNING AWAY* FROM *SOMETHING!* I *KNOW* IT! I WONDER IF IT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE HEAVY *SACKS* THEY WERE CARRYING?

WHATEVER THEY WERE UP TO *WE'LL* NEVER KNOW! WE'LL BE LUCKY IF WE GET *OUT* OF THIS HELL HOLE BEFORE SOMETHING *BIG* AND *HUNGRY* DECIDES TO EAT US *WHOLE!*

LISTEN! DID YOU HEAR THAT *SCREAM?*
THE THE *AMAZONS–!* THEY'VE *FOUND* US !

GOOD *GOD,* ECO THERE THEY *ARE* AGAIN!
AND THEY THEY'RE BEING *RIDDLED* WITH *ARROWS!*

THEY NEVER HAD A *CHANCE!* THOSE BLOOD-THIRSTY *AMAZONS BUTCHERED* THEM! WE WE'VE GOT TO GET *OUT* OF HERE BEFORE THEY FIND *US*...AS WELL!
COME *ON!* THEY RE *GONE!* AND THE *CANOE'S* OUR *ONLY HOPE!*

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THOSE MEN *DID*...TO MAKE THE AMAZONS *SLAUGHTER* THEM THAT WAY?
I-I-IT WAS TH-TH-THE *STONES...!* TH-THE P-P-PRECIOUS K-K-*KANTHAR* S-S-STONES!

YOU KNOW, MY FRIEND, YOU DON'T SAY *MUCH*, BUT WHEN YOU *DO*, YOU SAY A *MOUTHFUL!*
TELL ME ABOUT THESE *STONES*...! AND DON'T YOU *DARE* LEAVE OUT A *SINGLE* PROFITABLE *WORD!*
TO BE *CONTINUED*...!

Warren Publishing Co. Proudly Presents a Very Unusual Offer...

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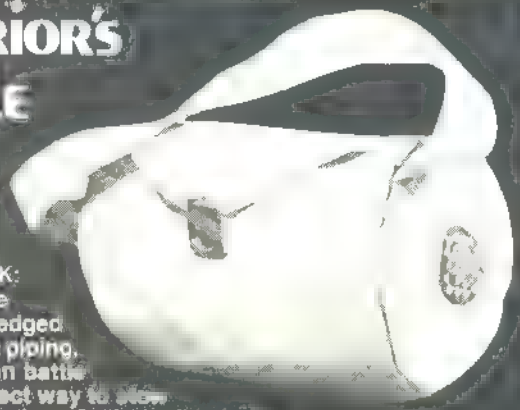
WARRIOR'S BATTLE PACK



WARRIORS BATTLE PACK: Super durable duck canvas edged in dark brown piping, makes this tan battle pack the perfect way to stow your gear! 13" long & 10" in diameter this spacious pack is decorated with a gold stitched Warrior Battle Emblem & brass colored fastener. A 33" long strap allows you to wear off shoulder as a back pack! #26205—$11.95

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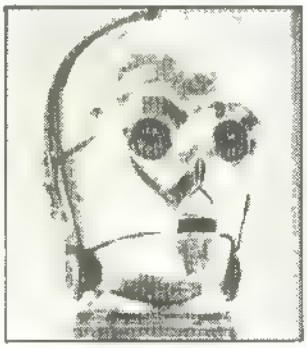
C-3PO MASK



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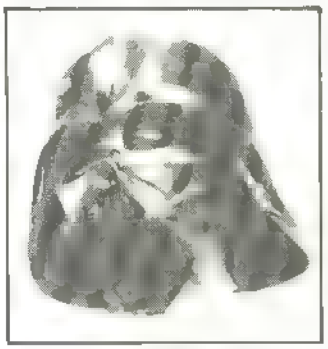

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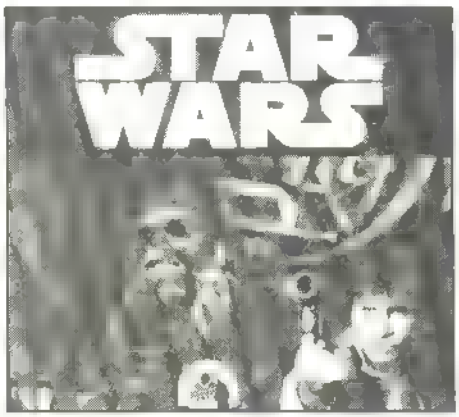

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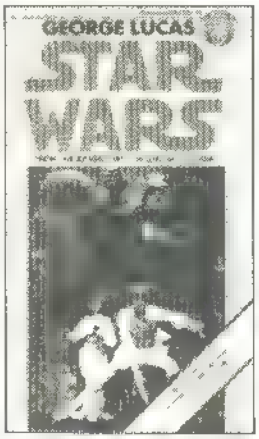

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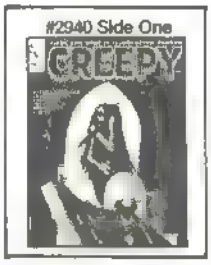
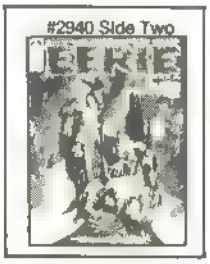


#2940 Side One



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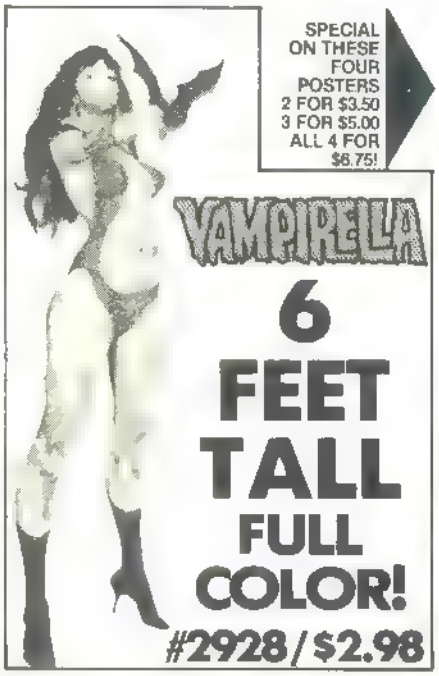

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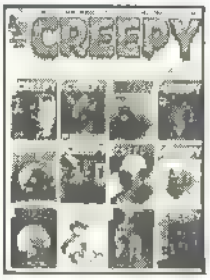

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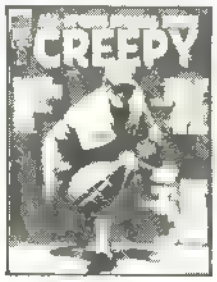

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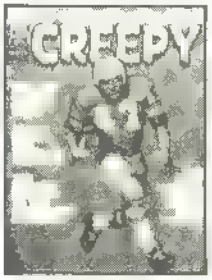

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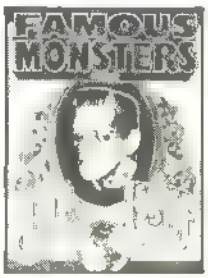

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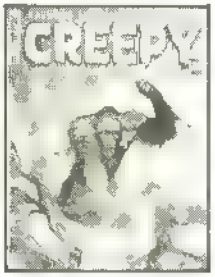

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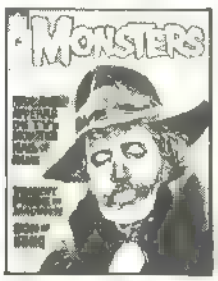

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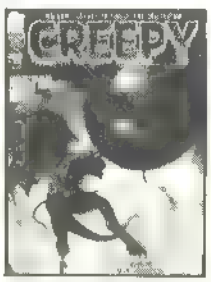

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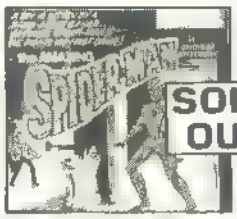

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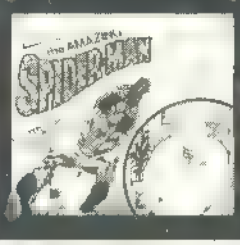

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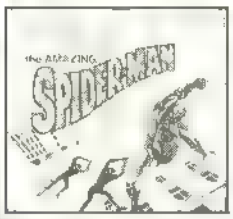

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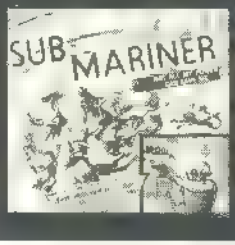

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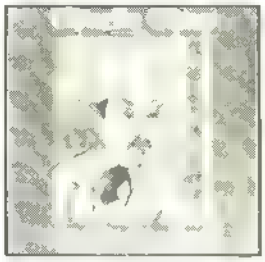

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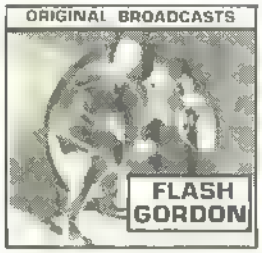

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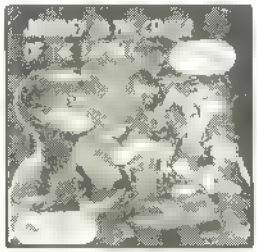

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The amazing Boris Karloff one of the finest "horror" actors of all time, stars in this fabulous fright flick A silent wonder! Who are these two lovelies so terrified of? Could it be Mr Karloff? What is the secret of the Black Room? A Black and White 200 Ft Reel, in Regular 8mm film. #2270—$12.95

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Larry Talbot arrives at the eerie "House of Dracula" to discover a cure for an illness that has plagued him for years Every full moon he turns into a werewolf! Can he be cured or will the waxing moon work its evil spell again? Super 8 and B&W #22065—$10.95

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Robert Lansing has the starring role in this super-terrifying home movie He is a scientist with a problem He uses his secret formula on himself, after reacting in a fit of jealousy! See what happens to him and everyone else who is involved with this mad scientist! Black & White Super 8 only. #2284—$10.95

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Far in the starry deeps of space, an incredible creature takes over the body of an Earth astronaut The astronaut's snatched body returns to Earth to spread mayhem and terror through city streets by hunting the heads of women! Black & White regular 8mm reels and Super 8! #22059—$10.95

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The great Lon Chaney Jr stars as the murderous mummy Rising from the crypt, shuffling down dark corridors its clutching hand reaching for his victim's throat! The mummy lives only to kill at the bidding of his master who is desperate for the tana leaf potion. The Mummy's Ghost will haunt you!! #2268—$10.95

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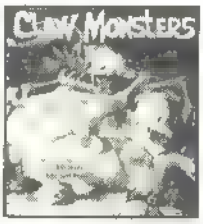

A very strangely-warped scientist (isn't that the way most of them appear to be?) creates huge, horrifyingly ugly Claw Monsters! He uses them in an attempt to ward off trespassers nearing his African diamond mine Do these monsters do their job? Only one way to know for sure Super 8 only Black & White. #2290—$10.95

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Be careful of this vicious fiend! This unusual creature is half bone half bandage and all blood curdling terror! You must be strong to sit still while watching this terrifying flick! Do you dare buy it? Prove yourself! Choose either Regular 8 in Super Color #22050/$23.95, or in B&W in Super or Regular 8. Mummy's Curse #22047—$12.95

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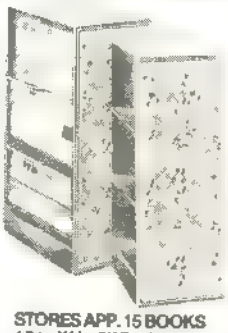

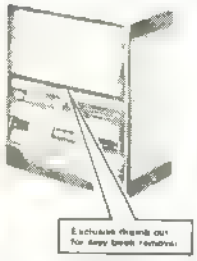

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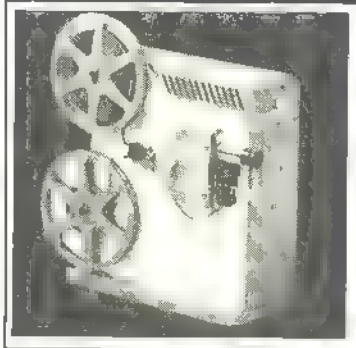

Compare this fine unit with others costing much more, and you will find that this projector is well worth buying! The full size is 9" x 5" x 10" and comes in a rugged metal housing - Blower cooled and handles 200 feet reels. Easy threading! Rapid motor rewind. Vertical tilt device. Manual framer. 200 foot take up reel. 150 Watt lamp. Easy to clean. Have hours of fun with this big, beautiful movie projector! #26010—$55.95

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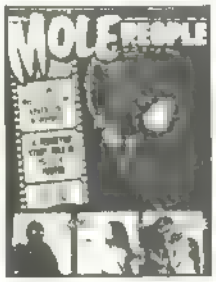

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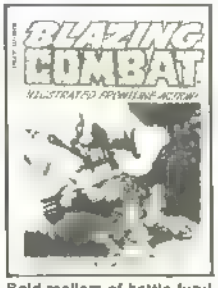

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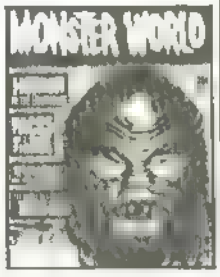

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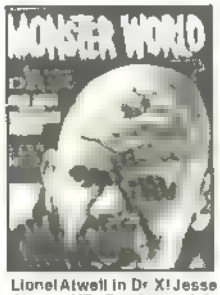

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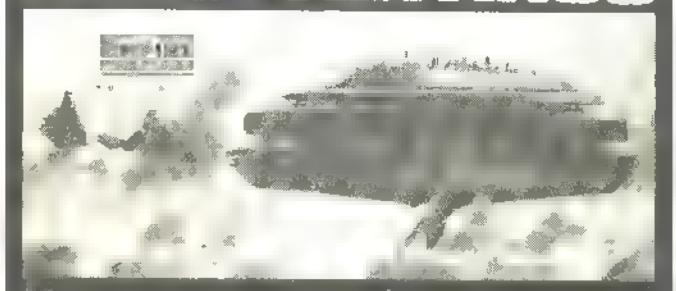

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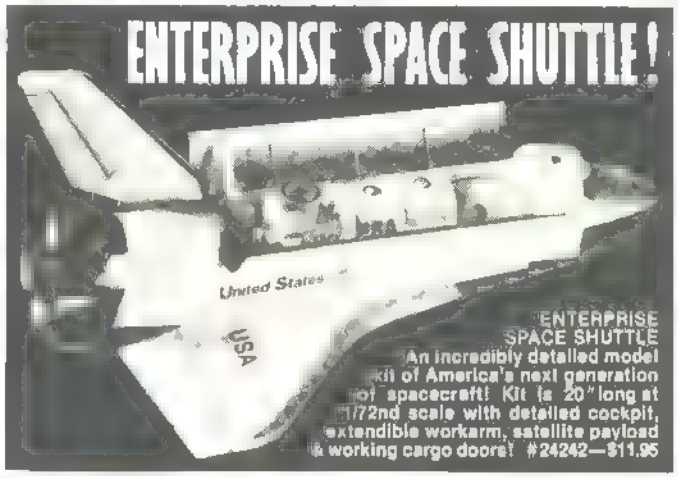

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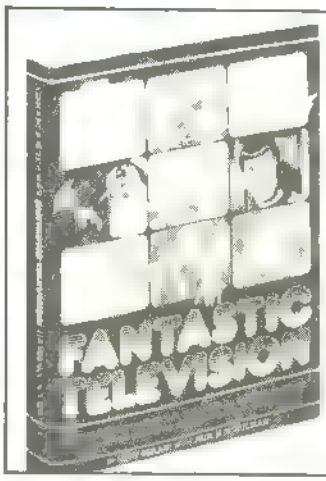

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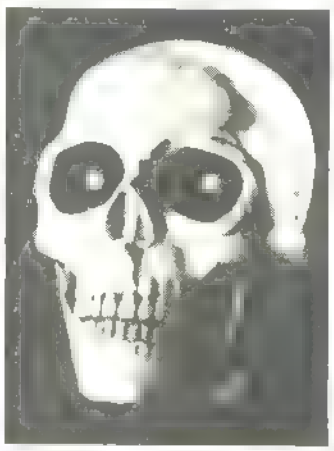

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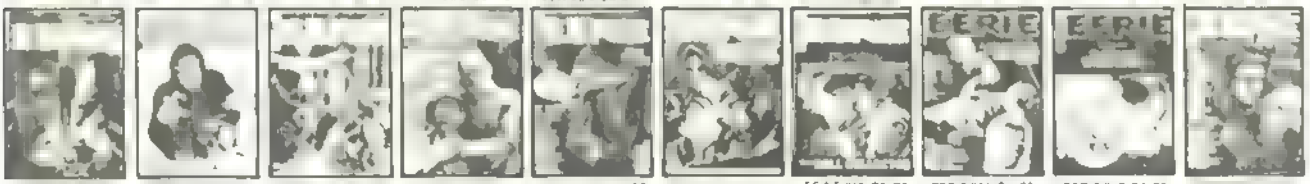

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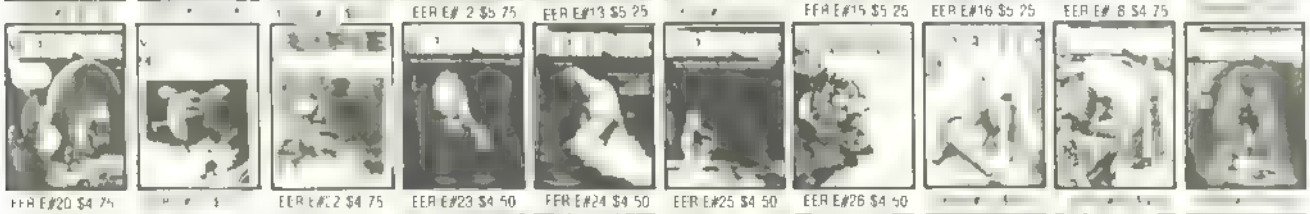

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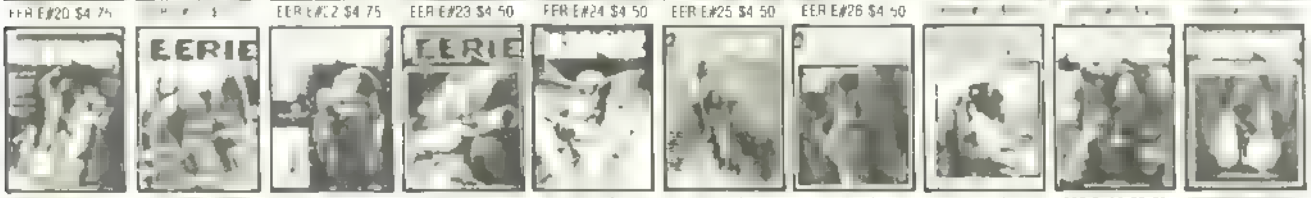

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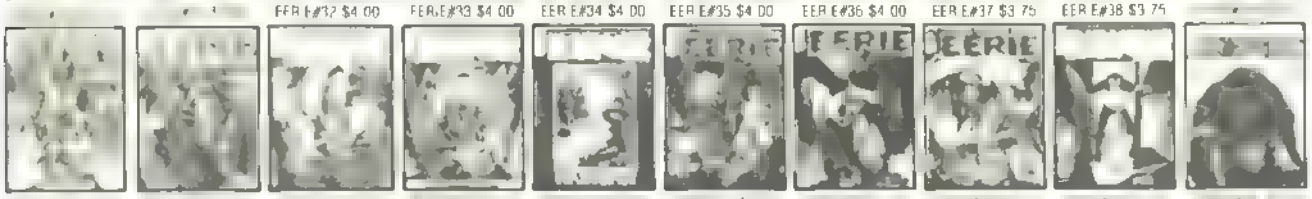

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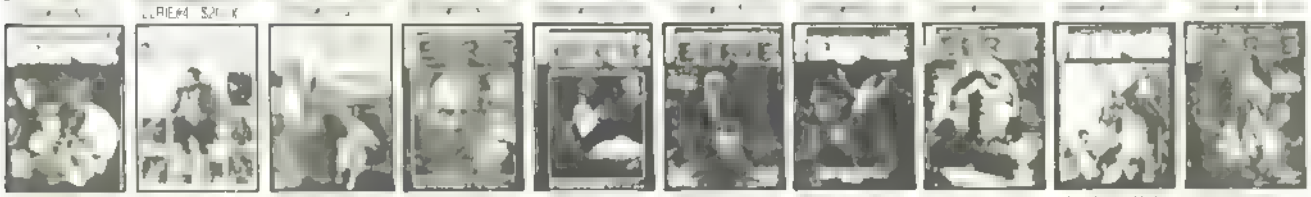

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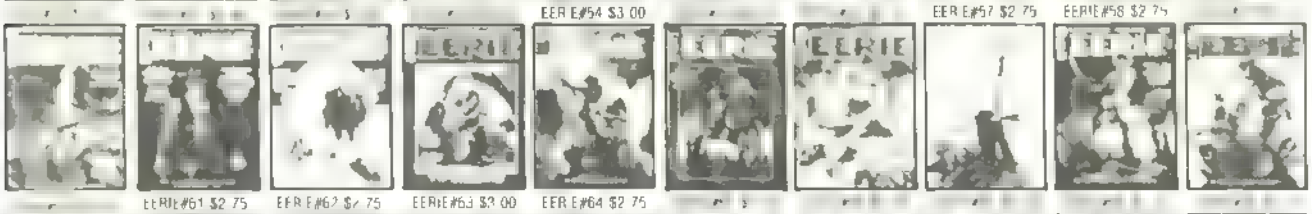

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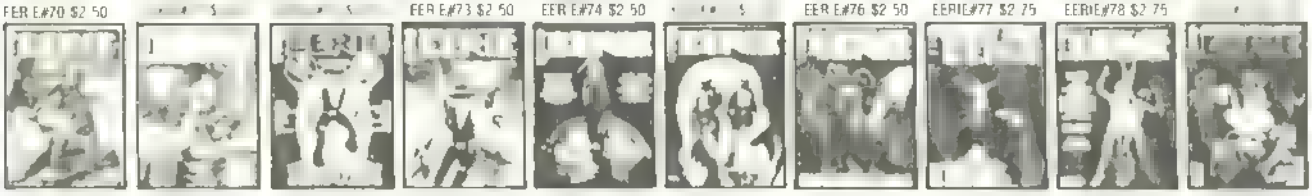

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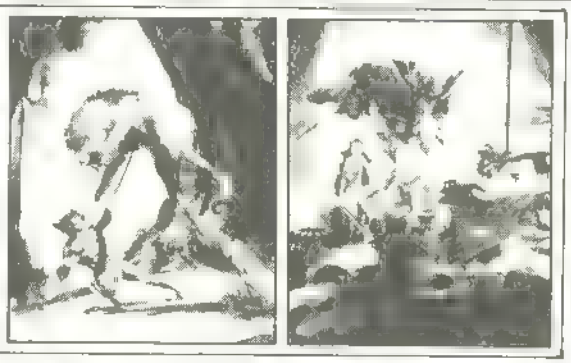

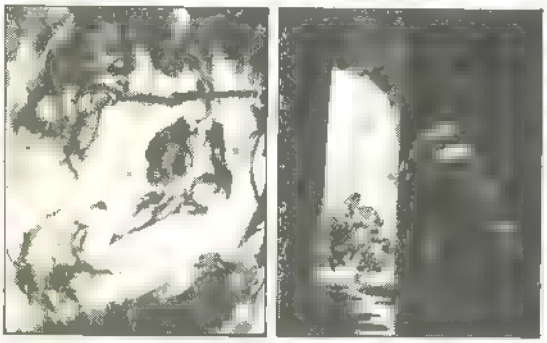

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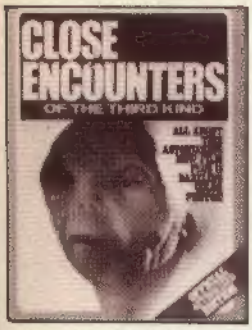

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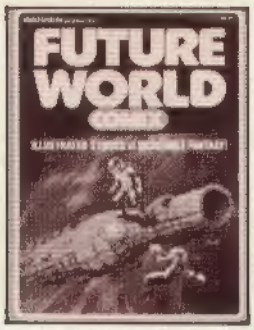

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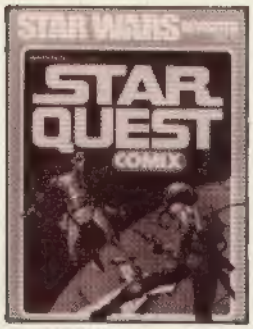

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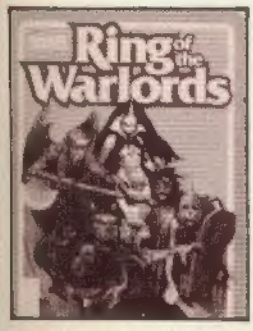

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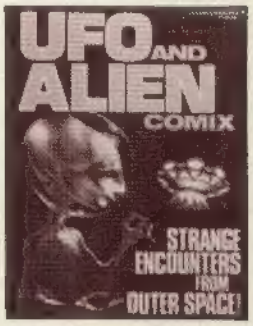

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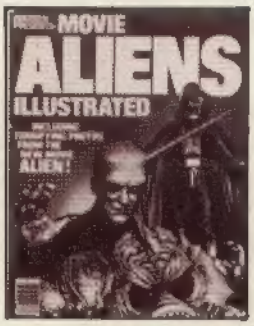

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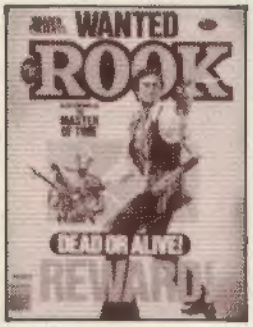

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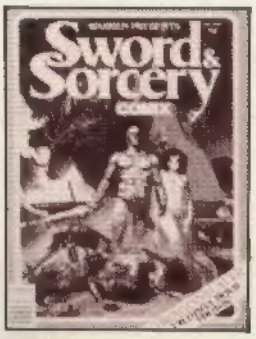

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